

NJSIAA

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONSTITUTION

BY-LAWS

RULES AND REGULATIONS



2025 - 2026

NJSIAA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the NJSIAA is to assist member schools in providing equitable education-based interscholastic athletic opportunities that support academic achievement, good sportsmanship and fair play for student-athletes.

NJSIAA VISION

Through collaboration with key stakeholders the NJSIAA will strive to achieve student-athlete growth in an ever-changing environment for their future success.

NJSIAA VALUES (not in order of importance)

- A physically and emotionally safe and healthy playing environment
- Educational experiences of all student-athletes through participation in interscholastic sports
- Excellence in academics and athletics
- Rules that support fair play
- Cooperation among member schools to advance individual and collective well-being
- Programs that through interscholastic participation develop good citizenship, promote healthy lifestyle, foster involvement from a diverse population and promotes school/community relations
- Properly trained officials who enhance interscholastic competition
- Student-athlete engagement in programs that promote the understanding that interscholastic athletics is a privilege
- Insistence that good sportsmanship be exhibited at all times by student-athletes, coaches, officials and spectators
- Effective communication to assist in understanding the function of the NJSIAA at all levels

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information

National Federation Membership	1
Executive Committee Members	2-4
NJSIAA Administration & Staff/About NJSIAA.....	5-11
Composition/Realignment of the Executive Committee	11-12

Constitution

Article I Name	13
Article II Objectives	13
Article III Membership.....	13-14
Article IV Finances	14
Article V Administration.....	14-16
Article VI Classification.....	17
Article VII Eligibility	17
Article VIII Annual Meeting.....	18
Article IX Championships.....	18
Article X Sanctions	18-19
Article XI Prohibitions	19
Article XII Amendments	20
Article XIII Effective Date.....	20

Bylaws

Article I Duties of Officers.....	21
Article II Duties of Executive Committee	22
Article III Classification of Member Schools / Cooperative Sports Programs.....	23-27
Article IV Annual Dues.....	28
Article V Eligibility of Athletes/Requirements	28-41
Article VI Contracts	41-42
Article VII Protests.....	42-43
Article VIII Contest Rules – Championships – Officials	43
Article IX Sportsmanship.....	44-46
Article X Penalties	46-47
Article XI Annual Meeting.....	47-48
Article XII General Provisions.....	48

Article XIII Hearing Procedure	48-52
Eligibility and Controversies Committees.....	48-49
Eligibility Appeals Committees.....	49-50
League/Conference Controversies.....	50
Controversies and Disputes Committee.....	50-52
Article XIV Amendments.....	52

Rules and Regulations

Student-Athlete/Out of Season Guidelines.....	52-57
Program Regulations	57-63
Specific Sport Regulations	63-66
Baseball	66
Basketball.....	67
Bowling.....	67-68
Fencing.....	68
Field Hockey	68-69
Football	69-70
Golf	70-71
Gymnastics.....	71
Ice Hockey	72-73
Lacrosse.....	73-74
Soccer.....	74-75
Softball	75
Swimming	75-76
Girls Tennis (Fall) / Boys Tennis (Spring).....	76-78
Cross Country.....	78-79
Winter Track	79-80
Spring Track.....	80
Girls Volleyball (Fall) / Boys Volleyball (Spring).....	81
Wrestling (Boys)	81-83
Wrestling (Girls)	83-85

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Dr. Karissa Niehoff, *Executive Director*

Mailing Address:	Shipping Address:
NFHS	NFHS
P.O. Box 690	1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46206	Indianapolis, IN 46202
Telephone: (317) 972-6900	
www.nfhs.org	

PURPOSES OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION

The National Federation of State High School Associations serves its members by providing leadership for the administration of education-based high school athletics and activities through the writing of playing rules that emphasize health and safety, educational programs that develop leaders, and administrative support to increase opportunities and promote sportsmanship.

We believe student participation in education-based high school athletics and activities:

- * Is a privilege.
- * Enriches the educational experience.
- * Encourages academic achievement.
- * Promotes respect, integrity and sportsmanship.
- * Develops leadership and life skills.
- * Fosters the inclusion of diverse populations.
- * Promotes healthy lifestyles and safe competition.
- * Encourages a positive school/community culture.
- * Should be fun.

The NFHS:

- * Serves as the national authority that promotes and protects the defining values of education-based high school athletics and activities in collaboration with its mentor state associations.
- * Serves as the national authority on competition rules while promoting fair play and seeking to minimize risk of injury for student participants in education-based high school athletics and activities.
- * Promotes lifelong health and safety values through participation.
- * Develops and delivers impactful, innovative and engaging educational programs to serve the changing needs of state associations, administrators, coaches, directors, officials, students, and parents.
- * Provides professional development opportunities for member state association staffs.
- * Promotes cooperation, collaboration and communication with and among state associations.
- * Collects and provides data analysis in order to allow its membership to make informed decisions.

In 1942 the NJSIAA became a member of the National Federation.

OFFICERS OF THE NJSIAA

Judy Finch-Johnson, *President*

Kurt Karcich, *1st Vice President*

Dr. Gregory Troxell, *2nd Vice President*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brendan McGovern, Athletic Director Bergen Catholic HS 1040 Oradell Avenue Oradell, NJ 07649 Term Expires: June 2027 (Non-Public North A)	Russell D. Petrocelli, Principal DePaul Catholic HS 1512 Alps Road Wayne, NJ 07470 Term Expires: June 2027 (Non-Public North B)	Heather Crisci, Principal Camden Catholic HS 300 Cuthbert Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 Term Expires: June 2027 (Non-Public South A)
Natalie Gorman, Athletic Director Ranney School 235 Hope Road Tinton Falls, NJ 07724 Term Expires: June 2027 (Non-Public South B)	Dr. Kimberly A. Gruccio, Superintendent Egg Harbor Twp Schools 13 Swift Drive Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234 Term Expires: June 2026 (Atlantic County)	Michael Raimondi, Athletic Director Ridgefield Park Jr-Sr HS 1 Ozzie Nelson Dr. Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660 Term Expires: June 2028 (Bergen County)
Tony Cattani, Principal Lenape HS 235 Hartford Rd Medford, NJ 08055 Term Expires: June 2027 (Burlington County)	Dr. Robert J. Fisicaro, Superintendent Haddon Twp School District 500 Rhoads Avenue Westmont, NJ 08108 Term Expires: June 2028 (Camden County)	Greg Lasher, Superintendent Lower Cape May Regional School District LCR Board Office / 687 US-9 Cape May, NJ 08204 Term Expires: June 2027 (Cape May County)
Cynthia Wilks, Athletic Director Bridgeton High School 111 North West Avenue Bridgeton, NJ 08302 Term Expires: June 2026 (Cumberland County)	Steven Jenkins, Athletic Director Bloomfield HS 160 Broad Street Bloomfield, NJ 07003 Term Expires: June 2027 (Essex County)	Dr. Jeff Pierro, Principal Gateway Regional HS 775 Tanyard Road Woodbury Heights, NJ 08096 Term Expires: June 2026 (Gloucester County)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (continued)

John Fraraccio, Athletic Director
Memorial HS
5501 Park Avenue
West New York, NJ 07093
Term Expires: June 2026
(Hudson County)

Jason Miller, Athletic Director
South Hunterdon HS
301 Mt. Airy-Harbourton Road
Lambertville, NJ 08530
Term Expires: June 2027
(Hunterdon County)

Dennis Vinson, Principal
Hightstown High School
25 Leshin Lane
Hightstown, NJ 08520
Term Expires: June 2026
(Mercer County)

Christopher Chiera, Principal
Colonia HS
180 East Street
Colonia, NJ 07067
Term Expires: June 2028
(Middlesex County)

Jeremy Braverman, Principal
Howell HS
405 Squankum-Yellowbrook Road
Farmingdale, NJ 07727
Term Expires: June 2027
(Monmouth County)

Dr. Anne Mucci, Superintendent
Morris School District
31 Hazel St.
Morristown, N 07960
Term Expires: June 2027
(Morris County)

John Germano, Athletic Director
Barnegat HS
180 Bengal Boulevard
Barnegat, NJ 08005
Term Expires: June 2028
(Ocean County)

Dr. Brack Healy, Superintendent
Passaic Valley School District
100 East Main Street
Little Falls Township, NJ 07424
Term Expires: June 2026
(Passaic County)

Joseph Ursino, Athletic Director
Woodstown HS
140 East Avenue
Woodstown, NJ 08098
Term Expires: June 2027
(Salem County)

Elizabeth Jewett, Superintendent
Watchung Hills Regional Schools
108 Stirling Rd.
Warren, NJ 07059
Term Expires: June 2028
(Somerset County)

Brian Bosworth, Principal
Kittatinny Regional HS
77 Halsey Rd.
Newton, NJ 07860
Term Expires: June 2028
(Sussex County)

Mark Cantagallo, Principal
Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS
667 Westfield Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
Term Expires: June 2027
(Union County)

Dr. Gregory Troxell, Superintendent
Phillipsburg Public Schools
263 State Route 57
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
Term Expires: June 2027
(Warren County)

Dr. Clifford Williams, Principal
Lawrence HS
2525 Princeton Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Term Expires: June 2027
(NJSIAA At-Large)

Kurt Karcich, Principal
Point Pleasant Boro HS
808 Laura Herbert Drive
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
Term Expires: June 2028
(NJSIAA At-Large)

Judy Finch-Johnson
Asst. Superintendent
Elizabeth BOE
500 North Broad St.
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
Term Expires: June 2027
(NJSIAA At-Large)

Anthony Browning, Athletic Director
Woodbury Jr-Sr HS
25 N. Broad St.
Woodbury, NJ 08096
Term Expires: June 2027
(NJSIAA At-Large)

Alaa "Al" Abdelaziz,
Asst, Principal
PCTI
45 Reinhardt Road
Wayne, NJ 07470
Term Expires: June 2026
(NJSIAA At-Large)

Jorge Diaz, Superintendent
Middlesex Cty Vocational & Tech
112 Rues Lane
East Brunswick, NJ 08816
Term Expires: June 2028
(NJSIAA At-Large)

Michael Baldwin, Sr,
Athletic Director
East Orange Campus HS
344 Prospect Street
East Orange, NJ 07017
Term Expires: June 2028
(NJSIAA At-Large)

Sjocquelyn Winstead,
Athletic Director
Columbia HS
17 Parker Avenue
Maplewood, NJ 07040
Term Expires: June 2027
(NJSIAA At-Large)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (continued)

<p>Tammy Wagner Stafford TWSP BOE – Ocean County Term Expires: June 2028 (NJSBA At-Large)</p>	<p>Barry Fitzgerald Lenape Regional BOE Term Expires: June 2026 (NJSBA At-Large)</p>	<p>Howard Krieger Allentown BOE Term Expires: June 2027 (NJSBA At-Large)</p>
<p>Steve Shohfi Point Pleasant Beach BOE Term Expires: June 2026 (NJSBA At-Large)</p>	<p>Mike Bartram Term Expires: June 2028 (Ex-Officio - Officials)</p>	<p>Maria Crowley Red Bank Regional HS 101 Ridge Road Little Silver, NJ 07739 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio - NJSCA)</p>
<p>Michael G. Gallo, Principal Seton Hall Prep School 120 Northfield Ave. West Orange, NJ 07052 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio - Non-Public)</p>	<p>Dr. Timothy Purnell NJSBA President Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio – NJSBA)</p>	<p>Tripp Welborne, AD The Lawrenceville School 2500 Main St. Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio - NJAIS)</p>
<p>Jennifer Killough-Herrera NJ Department of Education PO Box 500 Trenton, NJ 08625 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio – NJDOE)</p>	<p>Assemblyman - TBD Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio)</p>	<p>Senator Paul A. Sarlo 496 Columbia Blvd. / 1st Floor Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio)</p>
<p>Carl Buffalino, Athletic Director South River HS 11 Montgomery Street South River, NJ 08882 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio - DAANJ)</p>	<p>Michael Vinella NJSPA 12 Centre Drive Monroe Twp, NJ 08831 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio - NJPSA)</p>	<p>Paul Vizzuso Clark Public Schools 365 Westfield Ave Clark, NJ 07066 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio - NJASBO)</p>
<p>Dr. Michael Kuchar, Superintendent South Bergen Jointure Commission 809 Bellis Parkway Oradell, NJ 07649 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio - NJASA)</p>	<p>Jeff Baldino Special Olympics of NJ 1 Eunice Kennedy Shriver Way Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio – Special Olympics)</p>	<p>Jason Corley, Athletic Director Long Branch HS 404 Indiana Ave. Long Branch, NJ 07740 Term Expires: June 2026 (Ex-Officio - Past President)</p>

NJSIAA ADMINISTRATION

Colleen Maguire, *Executive Director*
Paul Popadiuk, *Chief Compliance Officer*
Tony Maselli, *Chief Operating Officer*
Derryk Sellers, *Assistant Director*
Al Stumpf, *Assistant Director*
Sandra Mamary, *Assistant Director*
Steven Goodell, *Association Attorney*
Alexis Smith, *Association Attorney*

NJSIAA STAFF

Richard Baez
Tawanda Bennett
Jennifer Fischer
Dena Maggio
Elizabeth Nodeland
Michele Perez
Anne Marie Walters

Address Communications to:

NJSIAA
1161 Route 130 North
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
Phone: (609) 259-2776
www.njsiaa.org

ABOUT THE NJSIAA

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association grew out of a meeting on September 27, 1918, in the Council Chambers of City Hall in Newark, New Jersey, at which time the 50 representatives from 21 secondary and private schools of the State appointed a temporary committee comprised of Walter E. Short, then director of athletics in the Newark schools, then sportswriter G.A. Falzer of *The Newark Sunday Call* and E.C. MacArthur of Peddie School. On November 8, 1918, with 32 schools represented, a constitution was adopted, and the organization to be known as the New Jersey Football Association elected E.C. MacArthur as its first president. The success of this group, although confining all of its efforts to football, encouraged the administrators and coaches of other interscholastic sports to call for a reorganizational meeting on March 28, 1919, at which time the name was changed to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

State champions were declared in football in 1918; basketball, baseball, and track were added to the championship group in 1919; and in the fall of that year cross-country was also included. The championship picture has been enlarged. Presently, the NJSIAA conducts State Championships in thirty-three sports, including seventeen for girls.

From 21 member schools in 1918, the NJSIAA has grown to over 440 member schools. The Executive Committee, originally comprised of 5 members, now numbers; 21 representing the public high schools, 4 representing the non-public schools, 14 serving as ex-officio members and 12 at-large representatives. In 1965, Jr. High Schools were admitted to membership, and in 1967 the activities of the girl's interscholastic athletics program were approved for guidance by the State Association.

Walter E. Short served the organization as Secretary on a part-time basis from 1918 to 1947, and upon his retirement from the Trenton school system in that year, was appointed to serve in that capacity on a full-time basis until his retirement in 1958. He was succeeded by Norman Mansfield, former Athletic Director at Montclair High School, who served as an interim administrator until 1960 when James G. Growney resigned his position as director of athletics, health and physical education for the West New York schools to become Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the NJSIAA and under his guidance the organization has been acclaimed as a leader in many activities on the national scene. Mr. Growney retired on July 1, 1981.

Succeeded by Robert F. Kanaby, who served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer during the 1980-81 year while Mr. Growney was on leave; continuing as Executive Director until 1993. James C. Riccobono succeeded Robert F. Kanaby as Executive Director, April 1993. In September of 1993, Boyd A. Sands became the sixth Executive Director. Upon Mr. Sands' retirement on January 10, 2006, Steven J. Timko became the seventh Executive Director of the NJSIAA. Larry L. White succeeded Steven J. Timko as Executive Director, upon Mr. Timko's retirement, on January 1, 2018, and became the eighth Executive Director. Upon Mr. White's retirement on December 31, 2020, Colleen E. Maguire became the ninth Executive Director of the NJSIAA.

In 1979, the Legislature adopted Chapter 172 (N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.) which provided formal authorization for public school members to join the NJSIAA and authorized the Commissioner of Education to consider appeals from action of the Association. That statute is set forth as follows:

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 Voluntary associations regulating conduct of student activities; membership; rules and regulations; appeals.

A board of education may join one or more voluntary associations which regulate the conduct of student activities between and among their members, whose membership may include private and public schools. Any such membership shall be by resolution of the board of education, adopted annually. No such voluntary association shall be operative without approval of its charter, constitution, bylaws, and rules and regulations by the Commissioner of Education. Upon the adoption of said resolution the board, its faculty, and students shall be governed by the rules and regulations of that association. The said rules and regulations shall be deemed to be the policy of the board of education and enforced first by the internal procedures of the association. In matters involving only public school districts and students, faculty, administrators and boards thereof, appeals shall be to the commissioner and thereafter the Superior Court. In all other matters, appeals shall be made directly to the Superior Court. The commissioner shall have authority to direct the association to conduct an inquiry by hearing or otherwise on a particular matter or alternatively, direct that particular matter be heard directly by him. The association shall be a party to any proceeding before the commissioner or in any court.

N.J.S.A. 18A: 11-3.1 Definitions relative to public school district participation in certain voluntary associations which oversee sports activities.

a. As used in this section:

“CPI” means the average annual increase, expressed as a decimal, in the consumer price index for the New York City and Philadelphia areas during the fiscal year preceding the prebudget year as reported by the United States Department of Labor.

b. A public school district shall not join pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1979, c.172 (C.18A:11-3), any voluntary association which oversees activities associated with Statewide interscholastic sports programs if:

(1) the association charges a cable television company an increased licensing fee, rate, assessment or other consideration for the broadcast of playoff games over local access or local originating channels, or both, compared to the licensing fee, rate, assessment or other consideration charged by the district for the broadcast of regular season games over local access or local originating channels, or both;

(2) the association requires increased ticket prices for attendance at playoff games compared to regular season games unless the increased ticket prices are required to offset event-related expenses including, but not limited to, rental, staffing, security, or insurance costs. If increased ticket prices are required to offset event-related expenses at a playoff game held at a public school, a public school district shall not join an association that increases adult ticket prices at that playoff game by more than 300 percent of the cost of a regular season adult ticket charged for a comparable event at the school district where the playoff game is held.

The association shall provide for discounted prices on student tickets for playoff games due to economic hardship, as determined by the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. The association may provide discounted ticket prices for other groups as deemed necessary by the association in consultation with the school district where the playoff game is held.

The association shall file playoff game ticket prices with the Commissioner of Education no later than 60 days prior to the scheduled playoff game, except that the association may subsequently file adjusted playoff game ticket prices with the commissioner no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled playoff game;

(3) the association charges a membership fee for the 2009-2010 school year which exceeds the membership fee for the 2008-2009 school year multiplied by 1 plus the CPI, and in any subsequent school year charges a membership fee that exceeds the prior school year fee multiplied by 1 plus the CPI, unless the Commissioner of Education deems a greater increase in the membership fee is necessary;

(4) the association charges members an entry fee for teams or individuals competing in playoff games for the 2009-2010 school year which exceeds the entry fee for the 2008-2009 school year multiplied by 1 plus the CPI, and in any subsequent school year charges members an entry fee that exceeds the prior school year fee multiplied by 1 plus the CPI, unless the Commissioner of Education deems a greater increase in the entry fee is necessary; or

(5) the association charges members any assessment in addition to the membership fee, unless the Commissioner of Education deems an additional assessment is necessary.

c. If any provision of this section is determined by the Commissioner of Education to jeopardize the amateur status of the student-athlete, that provision shall be null and void.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3.2. Findings, declarations relative to adapted athletic programs

The Legislature finds and declares that high school athletics often serve an integral role in the development of students. In addition to providing healthy forms of exercise, high school athletics foster friendships and camaraderie while promoting sportsmanship and fair play and instill the value of competition. The benefits and values of participating in high school athletics should be actively promoted and made available to all students, regardless of cognitive or physical limitations.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3.3. Interscholastic adapted athletic programs

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, in consultation with the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, shall establish interscholastic athletic programs adapted for participation by student-athletes with physical disabilities or visual impairments who are participating in an adapted athletic program developed by a school district. The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association shall require any coach of an adapted athletic program to receive training specific to that program.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3.4. Dissemination of certain information to student-athletes

A school district or nonpublic school that participates in Statewide interscholastic sports programs sanctioned by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association shall annually disseminate to each student enrolled in the district or nonpublic school who participates in interscholastic athletics the National Collegiate Athletic Association's freshman eligibility standards for participation in collegiate athletics.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3.5. Findings, declarations relative to athletic activities of students with disabilities

The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. The United States Government Accountability Office issued a report in June 2010 that underscored that access to, and participation in, extracurricular athletic opportunities provide important health and social benefits to all students, particularly those with disabilities, including socialization, improved teamwork and leadership skills, and fitness. Unfortunately, the report found that students with disabilities are not being afforded an equal opportunity to participate in extracurricular athletics in public elementary and secondary schools.

b. The United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, issued guidance on January 25, 2013, which clarifies existing legal obligations of school districts to provide equal access to extracurricular athletic activities to students with disabilities and urges school districts to work with community organizations to increase athletic opportunities for students with disabilities in club, intramural, and interscholastic athletic programs.

c. Students with intellectual, developmental, physical, and other forms of disabilities should consistently have opportunities to participate in athletics equal to those of other students, which is in keeping with school district responsibilities under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, regarding the provision of extracurricular activities.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3.6. Definitions relative to athletic activities of students with disabilities

As used in this act [C.18A:11-3.5 et seq.]:

“Adapted program” means a program that is developed for a student with a disability.

“Athletic program” means a club, intramural, or interscholastic athletic activity that is developed and offered to students by the school district.

“Physical education program” means the physical education program of the school district.

“Student with a disability” means a student who meets the definition of a “handicapped person” as defined in 45 C.F.R. § 84.3 (j).

“Unified sports program” means an athletic program that combines individuals with disabilities and individuals without disabilities.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3.7. Obligations of school district, exceptions

a. Each school district shall, subject to the provisions of subsection b. of this section:

(1) ensure that a student with a disability has an equal opportunity to: participate in physical education programs; participate in existing classroom activities that involve physical activity; and try out for and, if selected, participate in athletic programs in an integrated manner to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student; and

(2) ensure the provision of reasonable modifications or aids or services necessary to provide a student with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in physical education programs, existing classroom activities that involve physical activity, and athletic programs as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection in an integrated manner to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student.

b. An exception to the requirements under subsection a. of this section may be made when the inclusion of a student with a disability:

(1) presents an objective health or safety risk to the student or to others, based on an individualized assessment of the student; or

(2) fundamentally alters the nature of the physical education program or athletic program in accordance with the “Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,” 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3.8. Reasonable efforts when exception applies

In the event that an exception applies under subsection b. of section 3 [C.18A:11-3.7] of this act, a school district, in consultation with students, parents, community members, and advocacy groups, shall make reasonable efforts to provide a student with a disability the opportunity to participate in existing adapted or unified sports programs facilitated by community organizations, such as the Special Olympics New Jersey. A school district may develop such programs on a school, district, regional, or county basis. The provision of an adapted program or a unified sports program for a student with a disability shall not mitigate the responsibility of the school district to provide a student with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in programs and activities in accordance with section 3 of this act.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3.9. Interscholastic athletic programs for certain student-athletes with disabilities

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, in consultation with Special Olympics New Jersey and any other adapted sports organizations, may establish interscholastic athletic programs for student-athletes with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are participating in a unified sports program of athletics developed by a school district. The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association may require any coach of a unified sports program of athletics to receive training specific to that program.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3.10. “Heat Participation Policy”

A school district which is a member of any voluntary association, pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1979, c.172

(C.18A:11-3), which oversees activities associated with Statewide interscholastic sports programs shall:

a. Adopt the “Heat Participation Policy” required by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association for conducting practice or games in all sports during times of high heat or humidity. The association’s policy shall address:

(1) the scheduling of practice or games during times of various heat and humidity levels;

(2) the ratio of time devoted to workouts to time allotted for rest and hydration during various heat and humidity levels; and

(3) the heat and humidity levels at which practice or games will be canceled.

The guidelines included in the association’s policy shall provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the implementation of modifications or cancellation of practices or games based on the presence of heat and humidity.

b. Purchase a WetBulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) tool to measure the heat stress in direct sunlight at the practice or game site. Heat stress consists of temperature, humidity, wind speed, the angle of the sun, and cloud coverage.

A school district shall adopt the association’s policy concerning the frequency and recording of WetBulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) measurements.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-4 Minutes of meetings of associations overseeing interscholastic sports programs; record

The minutes of every meeting of any association functioning under this act which shall oversee activities associated with statewide interscholastic sports programs in this State shall be transmitted by and under certification thereof to the commissioner or his designee who shall acknowledge the receipt of the minutes by his signature. The commissioner or his designee shall prepare a report detailing all programs and fiscal activities of the Statewide associations and such other associations functioning under this act as he feels may be necessary. This report shall be based upon annual reports submitted to him by the associations operating under this act and shall detail any developments contrary to the public interest and shall indicate whether or not the intent of the Legislature in its grant of statutory authority to boards of education to join such associations is faithfully being executed.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-5 Effective date of amendments to charter, constitution, bylaws, rules or regulations of association; disapproval of amendments

Any amendment to the charter, constitution, bylaws, rules or regulations of the association shall be effective not less than 20 days after its submission to the commissioner. No such amendment shall take effect if the commissioner in said 20-day period returns to the secretary of the association his disapproval of the amendment.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-6. Liability of association, conference, employee

Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 335 (C. 2A:53A-1 et seq.), P.L.1973, c. 146 (C. 2A:15-5.1 et seq.) or any other law to the contrary, in any case where a voluntary association as provided by P.L.1979, c. 172 (C. 18A:11-3 et seq.), any athletic conference operating under the jurisdiction of that association or any employee of the association or conference acting within the scope of his employment is determined to be a tortfeasor in any cause of action along with one or more other tortfeasors, the association, conference or employee shall be liable for no more than that percentage share of the damages which is equal to the percentage of the negligence attributable to that association, conference or employee. In any case where the voluntary association, conference or employee is determined to be a joint tortfeasor, the voluntary association, conference or employee shall be required to contribute to a joint tortfeasor only to the extent of the recovery provided for under this section.

COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To achieve the proper goals of athletics, the school and the public must be informed concerning the role of athletic education. School athletics are a potential educative force that is not always properly used and that is too often misused. We, in New Jersey, are in a position to utilize athletics as part of the educational program by continuing to develop the responsibilities which belong to the state, the school, the community and this association. There is every reason to believe that if this done, communities will recognize those contributions school athletics can make, and be willing to aid in all efforts to stimulate and motivate the establishment of sound policies and wholesome practices for the secondary schools of New Jersey.

**REALIGNMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY COUNTY**

County	Section	Position	Current Term		Subsequent Term		
			1 st Term Expires	2 nd Term Expires	Position	1 st Term Expires	2 nd Term Expires
Atlantic	South	S	2023	2026	P	2029	2032
Bergen	North I	AD	2028	2031	S	2034	2037
Burlington	South	P	2024	2027	AD	2030	2033
Camden	South	S	2028	2031	P	2034	2037
Cape May	South	S	2024	2027	P	2030	2033
Cumberland	South	AD	2023	2026	S	2029	2032
Essex	North II	AD	2024	2027	S	2030	2033
Gloucester	South	P	2023	2026	AD	2029	2032
Hudson	North II	AD	2023	2026	S	2029	2032
Hunterdon	Central	AD	2024	2027	S	2030	2033
Mercer	Central	P	2023	2026	AD	2029	2032
Middlesex	Central	P	2028	2031	AD	2034	2037
Monmouth	Central	P	2024	2027	AD	2030	2033
Morris	North II	S	2024	2027	P	2030	2033
Ocean	South	AD	2028	2031	S	2034	2037
Passaic	North I	S	2023	2026	P	2029	2032
Salem	South	AD	2024	2027	S	2030	2033
Somerset	Central	S	2028	2031	P	2034	2037
Sussex	North I	P	2028	2031	AD	2034	2037
Union	North II	P	2024	2027	AD	2030	2033
Warren	North II	S	2024	2027	P	2030	2033

This plan provides for equal representation among the titled positions as provided under Article V – Administration, Section 2a of the NJSIAA Constitution. The term of office is determined on a July 1st through June 30th basis for the years indicated. Each term of office is for three years and is limited to only one three-year succession.

REALIGNMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (continued)
NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY SECTION

Effective Date September 1, 2003

Section	Position	Current Term		Subsequent Term		
		1 st Term Expires	2 nd Term Expires	Position	1 st Term Expires	2 nd Term Expires
North Non-Public A	AD	2024	2027	P	2030	2033
North Non-Public B	P	2024	2027	AD	2030	2033
South Non-Public A	P	2024	2027	AD	2030	2033
South Non-Public B	AD	2024	2027	P	2030	2033

This plan will provide for equal representation among the titled positions as provided for under Article 5 – Administration, Section 2b of the NJSIAA Constitution. Term of office is determined on a July 1st through June 30th basis of year indicated. Each term of office is for three years and is limited to only one three-year succession.

Notes

1. A person elected by Group A/B will serve out the remainder of the three-year term in the event of a change in group classification.
2. Voting Procedure:
 - a. Nomination forms sent by the NJSIAA to be submitted with three endorsements to the NJSIAA by May 1. The endorsements must come from schools other than the nominee by like position from the non-public schools. Example: Athletic Director must have three Athletic Director endorsements.
 - b. Casting Ballot – Ballots to be prepared and sent to the respective group, section and title by the NJSIAA for return by June 1. Ballots will be counted by the standing non-public representatives on the Executive Committee.
 - c. In the event of the tie, the candidate from the school with the higher enrollment will be elected.

CONSTITUTION

Article I

NAME

The organization shall be known as the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA).

Article II

OBJECTIVES

Section 1

To foster and develop amateur athletics among the secondary schools of the State

Section 2

To equalize athletic opportunities by standardizing rules of eligibility for individuals, and classifying for competitive purposes the institutions which are members of the Association

Section 3

To supplement the physical education program of the secondary schools of New Jersey by making a practical application of the theories of physical activity

Section 4

To promote uniformity in the arrangement and control of contests

Section 5

To protect the mutual interests of the members of the Association through the cultivation of ideals of clean sports in their relation to the development of character and good citizenship

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Schools eligible for membership in this Association must be accredited secondary institutions. A school that is organizing one year at a time shall be permitted to join the Association on a probationary membership when the 11th grade is organized within its school, pending final accreditation.

Section 2

All approved high schools public/private and non-public high schools in New Jersey shall be eligible for membership in the Association.

Section 3

No member school shall be a member of any league or conference not recognized, sanctioned or approved by the Association.

Section 4

The private secondary schools are eligible for a federated membership in this Association through the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools, membership of which is made up of the private secondary schools in New Jersey. The New Jersey Association of Independent Schools shall supervise the athletic activities of its own division without any financial aid from the State Association. They will come under the jurisdiction of and have representation on the Executive Committee of the State Association and will pay an annual fee as an organization, not as individual schools.

Article IV

FINANCES

Section 1

Each member school shall be assessed as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 2

Administration of the finances of the Association shall be the duty of the Executive Committee.

Section 3

There shall be a distribution on an equitable basis among the member schools of the NJSIAA of the moneys above the amount set by the Executive Committee to be held in reserve plus the amount necessary for the running expenses of the Association.

Section 4

Any member school of the NJSIAA incorporated for pecuniary profit shall not participate in the distribution of the funds mentioned in Section 3 of this Article.

Article V

ADMINISTRATION

The Executive Committee shall consist of such members and be selected as follows:

Section 1

There shall be a governing body to be known as the Executive Committee, composed of representatives as follows:

- a. 21 public high school representatives;
- b. 4 non-public high school representatives;
- c. 14 ex officio representatives; and,
- d. 12 at large representatives.

Section 2a

The public high school representation as provided for in Section 1a. shall be comprised of one representative from each county and shall be elected by the respective organization, i.e., Superintendents, Principals, or Athletic Directors of that county at a meeting called by the present representative from that county for that purpose. This meeting is to take place and the election held prior to May 28th of the year in which the Executive Committee member's term expires. Only the official voting representative (one from each school) shall vote. Official voting forms will be furnished by the Central Office; these forms must be returned to the Central Office after the election and kept on file. The new member shall enter into his office on July 1.

The term of office of a public high school representative shall be for a period of three (3) years; such representative of the Executive Committee may succeed himself/herself for a second term of three (3) years so long as the designated rotation of position or title is followed. If a vacancy should occur during the term of office, the county shall elect a representative to complete the term while maintaining the proper rotation perspective.

The public high school representation shall be rotated in such a manner each successive six years so as to maintain the proper balance of representation from the three positions or titled administrative areas, i.e., Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors. A representative's change of position or title within a county shall be construed as affecting the balance of representation. The Central Office shall be responsible for maintaining the proper balance of representation and shall indicate the position or title of the representative to be elected from said county. A system of rotation should be so constructed as to strive to maintain seven representatives from each of the three positions or titled administrative areas.

The constituent body of the county will have recall power to vacate a representative's membership on the Executive Committee for just cause, said vacancy to be filled according to the procedure outlined in this Section.

Section 2b

The non-public high school representatives as provided for in Section 1b. shall be comprised of one representative each, selected from the Northern A and B and Southern A and B Sections.

The non-public high school representatives shall be elected by the same procedure as the public high school representatives and be in an administrative position, i.e., Principals and Athletic Directors.

Provisions of membership and rotation in titled administrative areas shall be the same as that of a public high school representative.

To the purposes of this Section, the Northern Section shall comprise: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties; and the Southern Section shall comprise: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties.

Section 2c

The ex officio representation, as provided for in Section 1c, shall be elected by and from the Executive Committee or Board of Directors or President of their respective organizations annually, and shall include one representative from:

State Department of Education	NJ Council of Catholic Diocesan Superintendents
NJ School Boards Association	NJ Scholastic Coaches Association
Education Committees of NJ State Legislature	NJ Registered Officials
NJ Association of School Administrators	Directors of Athletics Association of NJ
NJ Association of School Business Officials	NJ Association of Independent Schools
NJ Principals and Supervisors Association	Immediate Past President, NJSIAA
Special Olympics New Jersey	

Section 2d

The at large representative, as provided for in Section 1.d., shall be elected as follows:

- a. Four (4) representatives who are school board members of school districts with secondary schools to be elected by the Board of Directors of the New Jersey School Boards Association; and
- b. Eight (8) representatives elected by the Executive Committee of the NJSIAA, the majority of whom shall be women or ethnic minorities.

The term of office of an at large representative shall be for a period of three (3) years; such representative of the Executive Committee shall be limited to only one three-year succession.

Section 3

An Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to hold office until his successor has been appointed. The Executive Director shall be employed on a full-time basis, his salary and duties to be fixed by the Executive Committee and by the Constitution and Bylaws. The term of his employment shall be confirmed by a written contract.

Section 4

The duties of the officers, and the Executive Committee, shall be as provided in the Bylaws. All votes on the Financial Affairs, Bylaws, or Rules and Regulations by the Executive Committee shall be by roll call. Any member of the Executive Committee may call for a roll call on any vote, as a matter of right.

Section 5

The Executive Committee shall enact Bylaws and Rules and Regulations for the Association. Rules and Regulations may be enacted by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Bylaws may only be enacted by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee.

The membership at its Annual Meeting may amend, add or abolish Bylaws and Rules and Regulations by a majority vote based on the total number of **ballots cast** at the Annual Meeting.

Section 6

The Executive Committee shall, when exercising its authority under Section 5 herein, send written notice of the proposed change to all member schools ten (10) days prior to the meeting of the Committee at which the matter is to be voted on. Six (6) months after the effective date of any change by the Executive Committee, the membership shall be polled by postal/electronic mail. After such poll, if a majority cast ballots, the Ballot shall be official and a majority of the votes cast shall decide the issue; if less than a majority of member schools respond, the position of the Executive Committee is sustained. At the next meeting of the Executive Committee, the results of the balloting shall be reported and the action of the vote shall be implemented.

Article VI

CLASSIFICATION

Section 1

New Jersey 18A:1-1. Definitions: "Public school" means a school, under college grade, which derives its support entirely or in part from public funds; these schools shall constitute the Public High School Division. All other schools of secondary grade, not so supported shall constitute the Non-Public Division.

Section 2

The two general divisions may be further classified as prescribed in the Bylaws.

Section 3

The Private Secondary Schools, members of the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools, will be known as federated members (non-members) and will not be eligible for NJSIAA tournament competition.

CL: Federated schools are not members of NJSIAA, but are members of the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools (NJ AIS). If the Federated Schools provide an affidavit that a specific sports program complies with all eligibility standards of the equivalent NJSIAA sports program, then the NJSIAA will approve that program for out-of-state competition.

Article VII

ELIGIBILITY

Section 1

Regulations governing the eligibility of individual players shall be established and enforced by the Association.

Section 2

Member schools shall comply with the eligibility regulations of the Association, and the acceptance of membership shall be construed as an agreement to that effect.

Section 3

Infractions of the eligibility regulations shall be judged and penalties therefore pronounced by the Executive Committee in such a manner as the Bylaws provide.

Article VIII

ANNUAL MEETING

The Association shall hold an annual meeting at a time and in a manner prescribed in the Bylaws.

Article IX

CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Association may award trophies and prizes in such sports as deemed advisable, and determine State or District championships, when, in the judgement of the Executive Committee, it is deemed feasible and possible.

Article X

SANCTIONS

Interstate athletic meets, games, and tournaments in which member schools participate or any All-Star games played during the out-of-season period (not including the Summer Recess) in which student-athletes participate, must have the sanction of the Association in order that individuals or teams representing member schools may participate. This provision applies to interstate meets, games, or tournaments involving four or more schools regardless of the connotation or number of periods or quarters played in round robins, festivals, classics, or events by any other name.

The requests for sanction for interstate meets, games, or tournaments must be received by the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days prior to the event.

The request for sanction for any All-Star game must be received by the Executive Director at least ninety (90) days prior to the event.

CL 1: The NJSIAA does not restrict an individual's choice to participate in non-sanctioned events; however, schools, school organizations, or school-related groups such as Booster Clubs may not assist the student-athlete's participation in non-sanctioned events. This would include providing uniforms, equipment, and coaching. The student-athlete may not represent his/her school in non-sanctioned events. The NJSIAA does not permit the funding, in whole or in part, of participation in invitational non-NJSIAA sanctioned events by a Board of Education.

CL 2:

- a. An NJSIAA member school must be designated as the host school for all group events which are not sponsored by an established county organization, a conference or league of member schools or by a member school (e.g. a regional tournament, etc.). The host school will be responsible to the NJSIAA in assuring adherence to Association rules and regulations.*
- b. When only New Jersey schools are involved, the host school has the sanctioning jurisdiction and it is not necessary to contact the Central Office. When a non-member high school site is involved, the host school must contact the NJSIAA Central Office for appropriate forms to be submitted for approval.*

- c. *When out-of-state or foreign high schools are involved, the host member school must follow this procedure:*
 - a. *interested individuals who want to host an event will go online at the NFHS website (www.NFHS.org), register as an event manager, create an event and fill out the online application (identical to the paper version);*
 - b. *the NFHS will then send an e-mail to the host school's principal and host state association;*
 - c. *the state association reviews the application online and determines if they will approve or deny the application;*
 - d. *once approved the event sponsor is notified by the NFHS association that payment is required. Credit card payment and electronic check are the only forms of payment accepted; and,*
 - e. *once the payment is received by the NFHS, the invited states/schools are notified that they have been invited and it is listed on the NFHS.*
- d. *When only schools from states which border the State of New Jersey (Delaware, Pennsylvania, and/or New York) are invited, host school must contact NJSIAA Central Office for the necessary application.*

CL 3: Before any NJSIAA member school enters games, meets or tournaments involving four or more schools, they must inquire as to the sanctioning status (1) by a member school or (2) by the National Federation (3) as a Bordering States sanction or (4) International Competition. In (1) a member school must have written evidence of the sanctioning school before entering the tournament; in (2), (3) and (4) before entering the tournament, inquiry must be made through the Central Office when that tournament has not been listed as approved in the NJSIAA Executive Committee Minutes and posted on the NJSIAA website.

CL 4: Member schools must sign an affidavit which states they will play out-of-state contests under NJSIAA rules.

CL 5: The NJSIAA will not act on Sanctioning Requests for Non-Member Schools.

Article XI

PROHIBITIONS

Section 1

Interscholastic boxing among member schools is prohibited.

Section 2

There shall be no post-season games unless under the auspices or sanction of the NJSIAA.

Article XII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1

Any member school of the Association, or the Executive Director, may initiate an addition, deletion or any other change in the Constitution, Bylaws or Rules and Regulations by submitting such proposal in writing prior to December 1. All such proposals shall be considered by the Advisory Committee before January 15, and those proposals which have been endorsed shall be forwarded immediately to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall endorse or reject each proposal submitted by the membership, and any proposals made by the Advisory or Executive Committee prior to February 1. All such proposals endorsed by the Executive Committee shall be distributed to the membership prior to May 1.

When a proposal by a member school has been rejected by the Advisory or Executive Committee, the school which submitted the proposal shall be notified on or before February 1.

If the proposal is resubmitted with the endorsement of twenty (20) member schools prior to April 1, it shall be included among those proposals sent to the membership prior to May 1.

Prior to April 1, at least two (2) sectional meetings of the Association shall be held for the purpose of explaining the legislation pending before the membership. After thorough discussion, the Executive Committee shall recommend the form and substance of the legislation to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting. Proposals which have been resubmitted with the endorsement of twenty (20) member schools shall be presented as written by the proposing school to the membership for a vote.

Section 2

The Executive Director shall be responsible for distribution of the proposed legislation to the membership at least ten (10) days before the Annual Meeting. Each proposal shall include a note to show the origin of the proposal, i.e., member school, Advisory or Executive Committee.

Section 3

The Constitution of the Association may be amended by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote at the Annual Meeting based on the total number of ballots cast at the Annual Meeting.

Section 4

All amendments will become effective on July 1, following the Annual Meeting unless by a separate two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the ballots cast an earlier date is set.

Section 5

The minutes of the Annual Meeting must show the full and exact vote by members of the Association on each proposed amendment. Amendments once voted upon may neither be resubmitted, if defeated; nor repealed, if approved, for a period of two years from the effective date. However, the Executive Committee may, if it deems necessary, reintroduce legislation at any time.

Article XIII

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Constitution shall take effect on September 1 (of each calendar year) unless otherwise stipulated.

NOTE: CL indicates clarifications which are italicized.

BYLAWS

Article I

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1

The President shall have the power to call, and preside over, meetings of this Association.

Section 2

The First Vice President shall exercise these powers in the absence of the President. The Second Vice President shall exercise these powers in the absence of the President and the First Vice President.

Section 3

The Executive Director shall have the following duties and powers:

- A. To administer the financial affairs of this Association, under the direction of the Executive Committee, and shall render a financial statement at the Annual Meeting.
- B. To prepare the annual budget.
- C. To handle all the correspondence of the Association.
- D. To prepare and present agenda for, and attend all the meetings of this Association or its committees.
- E. To make all arrangements for the Annual Meeting. To notify the member schools in advance of the legislation, nominations, and other business to be discussed at the meeting.
- F. To represent NJSIAA on the DAANJ Board of Directors, and oversee all athletic leagues and conferences.
- G. To manage or arrange for the management of all state championship meets and tournaments.
- H. To arrange for such playoffs as may be directed by the Executive Committee.
- I. To arrange for an athletic insurance program to be offered to the member schools.
- J. To manage the Central Office of this Association, engaging office space, hiring the necessary office personnel and procuring office supplies, and designate the Attorneys for the Association
- K. To arrange for the publication of the annual handbook in an electronic format.
- L. To handle the public and press relations of this Association or make arrangements to handle press relations of the Association.
- M. To keep the program up-to-date and sponsor new activities under the direction of the Executive Committee.
- N. To be empowered to rule on the interpretations of the Constitution and Bylaws, and rules of the Association, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
- O. To perform such other duties as the Executive Committee directs.
- P. To designate one or more persons to attend one or more meetings of the Executive Committee to assure all views on a given subject are represented, such persons will not be permitted to vote.
- Q. To investigate, or order an investigation by a member school, NJSIAA staff, or other designee, of any alleged infraction of the Association's Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures or Tournament Regulations.

Article II

DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1

The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President, and shall conduct such business as may be necessary or useful for furthering the interests of this Association and shall adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of sports contests as they deem proper. The Executive Committee is empowered to act upon any areas not specifically covered by the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations.

Section 2

The Executive Committee shall direct the financial affairs of this Association, and shall appropriate such monies as may be necessary or useful for its operation.

Section 3

The Executive Committee shall appoint an Advisory Committee to be composed of one member from each county of the State and two members from the non-public schools division. The term of each member of the Advisory Committee shall be for one year. The appointments should be made on an equal distribution from Athletic Directors, secondary Principals and superintendents.

The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, appoint other committees to which it may delegate specific functions. These committees may be formed from its own members, from the personnel of member schools, or from both, provided that no more than one member be appointed from any one school.

Section 4

Duties of the Executive Committee Members with relation to District or Regional organizations:

- A. Help plan, control and assist in the management of all interscholastic athletics of the district or region as organized by the Executive Committee, in cooperation with other counties within their district or region.
- B. Assist member schools in proposing legislation to the Advisory Committee for action, if any is required.
- C. Report the proceedings of all district or regional meetings to the Central Office of the NJSIAA.
- D. Foster a Code of Ethics.
- E. Conduct district or regional meetings for the orientation of new Principals, Athletic Directors and coaches; also, for the election of new members to the Executive Committee when needed.
- F. Attend meetings of the NJSIAA when called by the President of the Association.
- G. Assist in the clarification of eligibility rules to member schools within a given district, but will not rule on cases of eligibility.
- H. Conduct such hearings as he is directed to hold by the Executive Committee.

Section 5

The Executive Committee shall hold hearings in such a manner as they shall by rule provide.

Article III

CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER SCHOOLS

Section 1

Public and non-public member schools shall be divided into a “Public Schools Division” and a “Non-public Schools Division,” respectively.

Section 2

The affairs of the non-public secondary schools of the State shall be regulated in accordance with the Constitution.

Section 3

Classification of Public Schools for Purposes of State Championship Tournaments:

A. Groups

1. Every two years, the public schools shall be divided by enrollment into Groups, on a sports specific basis, as determined by the Executive Committee.
2. Enrollment shall be defined as the sum of a school’s student population for grades 9, 10 and 11. Enrollment figures shall be those reported to and certified by the Department of Education for the purpose of obtaining state school aid.

CL: The central office will determine enrollment for each school based on the figures submitted by the school to the department of Education for state school aid. The enrollment figures shall include classified students. This determination of enrollment shall be deemed final, and not subject to appeal, unless it can be documented that there was an error in the Department of Education report.

3. To determine the number of schools in each Group for a particular sport, the number of public schools participating in that sport shall be divided by the number of Groups, and an equal number of schools shall be assigned to each of the Groups. If the total number of public schools cannot be divided evenly by the number of Groups, then the number of schools in the smallest shall be increased by the remainder.

B. Sections

1. Every two years the public schools in each of the Groups shall be divided by geography Sections, on a sports specific basis, as determined by the Executive Committee.
2. To determine the number of schools in each Section for a particular sport, the number of public schools participating in that sport shall be divided by the number of Sections, and an equal number of schools shall be assigned to each of the Sections. If the total number of public schools cannot be divided by evenly by the number of Sections, then one remainder will be added to each Section from the northernmost to the southernmost Section until there are no more remainders.

3. The geographic boundary of each Section shall run along the east-west parallel associated with the southernmost school of that Section.

CL: For the purposes of this Section 3, public charter schools and public cooperative sports programs will not be included in the original total number of schools to be divided by enrollment and then geography for each sport. Public charter schools and public cooperative sports programs with confirmed varsity status shall then be added to the appropriate group and section based on the school's and/or program's total enrollment and northing number.

- C. Competitive Balance: A public school's classification may be changed based on a competitive balance formula as approved by the Executive Committee and set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

Section 4

Classification of Non-Public Schools for Purposes of State Championship Tournaments:

A. Groups

1. Every two years, the non-public schools shall be divided by enrollment into Groups, on a sport- specific basis, as determined by the Executive Committee.
2. Enrollment shall be defined as the sum of a school's student population for grades 9, 10 and 11, dated November 1. The Non-Public classifications will be based on gender specific enrollments for every sport.
3. To determine the number of non-public schools in each Group for a particular sport, the number of non-public schools participating in that sport shall be divided by the number of Groups, and an equal number of schools shall be assigned to each of the Groups. If the total number of non-public schools cannot be divided evenly by the number of Groups, then the number of schools in the smallest shall be increased by the remainder.

B. Sections

1. Every two years, the non-public schools in each of the Groups shall be divided by geography into Sections, on a sport specific basis, as determined by the Executive Committee.
2. To determine the number of schools in each Section for a particular sport, the number of non-public schools participating in that sport shall be divided by the number of Sections, and an equal number of schools shall be assigned to each of the Sections. If the total number of non-public schools cannot be divided by evenly by the number of Sections, then one remainder will be added to each Section from the northernmost to the southernmost Section until there are no more remainders.
3. The geographic boundary of each Section shall run along the east-west parallel associated with the southernmost school of that Section.

CL: For the purposes of this Section 4, non-public cooperative sports programs will not be included in the original total number of schools to be divided by enrollment and then geography for each sport. Non-public cooperative sports programs with confirmed varsity status shall then be added to the appropriate group and section based on the program's total enrollment and northing number.

Section 5

Classification of non-member schools, non-public schools and out-of-state schools, for awarding power-points and determining tournament tie-breakers, shall be as follows:

- A. The enrollment of a non-member or out-of-state school must be verified, in writing, to the NJSIAA, by the principal or headmaster of the school.
- B. Non-member, non-public, and out-of-state schools shall be classified as though they were public schools in New Jersey with the same enrollment.
- C. If the enrollment of a non-member, non-public, or out-of-state school does not fall within the enrollment range of any then-existing Group, the non-member, non-public, or out-of-state school shall be classified with the Group that will, with the addition of that school, have the least disparity from largest to smallest school.

CL: A non-member school has an enrollment of 704. The Group III range that year includes New Jersey public schools with enrollments between 708 and 992. The Group II range includes schools with enrollments between 452 and 698. The non-member school would be considered to be a Group II school, since the enrollment disparity in Group III, with the addition of the non-member school, would be 288 (992 minus 704), whereas the disparity in Group II would be just 252 (704 minus 452).

Section 6

- A. State championship competition will be conducted as approved by the Executive Committee and delineated in the regulations of each sport.

Section 7

Cooperative Sports Programs

- A. The Executive Committee shall approve all Cooperative Sports Programs (CSP) upon the recommendation of the Cooperative Sports Committee (CSC) or the Cooperative Sports Appeals Committee (CSAC). Such Cooperative Sports Programs will be based upon an agreement between the cooperating schools whereby one of the two schools shall have the complete responsibility as the Local Education Agency (LEA) for the conduct of the specific sport(s), which will be available to the students at both schools.

CL 1: Cooperative Sports Program applications should be signed by an officer of the Participating League or Conference, and indicate whether the League or Conference endorses or not endorses the application. The Participating League or Conference is defined as the entity that schedules the regular season games for that particular sport.

CL 2: This section establishes a process by which Cooperative Sports Program applications are processed, reviewed, and appealed. A CSP is an exception to the general requirement that students play sports at the school at which they are enrolled. A CSP is not to be used to place students in another school's program simply because the student(s)' school does not offer the particular sport. Both schools must demonstrate a need for and commitment to the CSP.

- B. The purpose of a Cooperative Sports Program is to provide opportunities for participation when none would otherwise exist, as for instance when a school lacks a particular program or when a school has declining enrollment in a particular program. Under no circumstances is a CSP to be used for purposes of creating a stronger or more competitive team, or as an excuse for eliminating an otherwise viable athletic program.

Cooperative Sports Programs should be comprised of schools from the same Participating League or Conference or General League or Conference. Crossover to other Leagues or Conferences is only permitted after efforts have been exhausted to partner with a school within the same League or Conference. If a CSP is comprised of schools from different Leagues and Conferences, then approval must be received from all Leagues and Conferences involved.

C. Schools may enter into a Cooperative Sports Program for any sport and for any Group size. However, the following conditions must be met in order for a Cooperative Sports Program application to be considered by the CSC:

1. A public high school can only enter into Cooperative Sports Programs with another public high school while non-public high schools can only enter into such programs with another non-public high school.
2. A member school may enter into Cooperative Sports Programs with more than one other school for more than one sport; however, a member school may only enter into one Cooperative Sports Program for a particular sport.
3. In Cooperative Sports Programs involving ice hockey, three public schools or three non-public schools may combine to form a tri-school Cooperative Sports Program with a maximum thirty (30) student-athlete roster, if their respective leagues approve. Public schools may not combine with non-public schools.
4. A Cooperative Sports Program is for a two-year period with an automatic two-year renewal. Written notification of automatic renewal must be submitted by the sports specific deadlines indicated below.

Completed applications and required written documentation must be submitted to the NJSIAA office by the following sports specific deadlines:

Fall sports – January 15th; Winter sports – April 15th; Spring sports – September 15th

D. The total enrollment used for classification purposes of the Cooperative Sports Program will be determined based upon the most current year joint pupil enrollment of grades 9, 10, and 11. One hundred percent (100%) of the partner school's enrollment shall be added to the LEA's enrollment for the purpose of postseason playoff classification. In addition, the Cooperative Sports Committee may place a CSP in a more competitive classification if necessary for competitive balance. Such classification of the CSP will not affect either school's classification in any other sport.

E. Cooperative Sports Committee (CSC):

The President of the Executive Committee shall nominate a Cooperative Sports Committee of no less than five members and a chairperson, none of whom shall be members of the NJSIAA Executive Committee. The CSC will approve or disapprove each Cooperative Sports Program application. Approved applications will be presented at the next Executive Committee for final approval.

The CSC will also make classification determinations at the time of approval of the Cooperative Sports Program. The CSC will take into consideration the combined enrollments as well as other factors determined by the Committee.

The LEA, Partner school or Participating League or Conference may appeal any such decision by the CSC. Such appeal will be heard by the Cooperative Sports Appeal Committee per Article III, Section 10.E.

CL 3: The CSC will meet three times per year and their decisions will be based on written documentation submitted to the committee. Such meetings will occur within 45 days after each deadline prescribed in Article III, Section 7.C(4). Decisions of the CSC will be communicated to the applying schools within 10 business days of the meeting date.

CL 4: The CSC may change the classification determination previously made. Such change in classification will coincide with the automatic renewal period.

F. Cooperative Sports Appeals Committee (CSAC):

The President of the Executive Committee shall nominate a Cooperative Sports Appeals Committee of no less than five members and a chairperson, all of whom shall be members of the NJSIAA Executive Committee. All appeals from initial decisions of the CSC shall be determined by the Cooperative Sports Appeals Committee. The CSAC will not hear appeals of the classification determination made by the CSC

The CSAC shall consider Cooperative Sports Program matters, in accordance with the following procedures:

- i. The CSAC shall decide an appeal on either written submission or at a hearing.
- ii. The CSAC shall meet to determine any pending appeals on days corresponding with the regularly scheduled meetings of the Executive Committee.
- iii. Four members of the CSAC shall constitute a quorum. The Chairperson shall be a non-voting member of the Committee except where there is a tie to vote on any appeal. A member shall not vote on any appeal, the outcome of which would affect the schedule of that member's school.

If the CSAC approves a Cooperative Sports Program application, then they will make the classification determination at the time of approval. The CSAC will take into consideration the combined enrollments as well as other factors determined by the Committee.

- G. The LEA, Partner school or Participating League or Conference may appeal any such decision of the CSAC. Such appeal will be heard by the Executive Committee and such decision will be considered final.
- H. Cooperating schools may include all school names on their uniforms; however, the LEA name will be used by the NJSIAA for classifications and seeding brackets.
- I. Either the LEA or Partner school may exit a Cooperative Sports Program at any time during the time period covered by the approved application. Written notice must be submitted to the NJSIAA and the other participating school(s). Upon early termination, the participating schools will be reclassified to their natural classification as a single school.
- J. A Cooperative Sports Program for a particular sport will cover all levels of competition (i.e. freshman, J.V. and varsity). However, either school may establish a stand-alone sub-varsity team while continuing in the cooperative program in that same sport.
- K. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to adopt appropriate guidelines, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Section, so as to implement the Cooperative Sports Programs.
- L. No Cooperative Sports Program shall be allowed unless approved by the Executive Committee after prior approval by the Boards of Education of the cooperating schools.

Article IV

ANNUAL DUES

Section 1

Member schools shall pay an Annual Due of \$2,500.00.

Section 2

Annual dues become payable at the beginning of each school year and must be remitted to the Executive Director no later than October 1st.

Article V

ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES*

Section 1

A student, to be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a member school, must be enrolled in that school and must meet all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations, of the NJSIAA.

CL 1: Students being home-schooled (by parents or other parties) may be eligible if the local Board of Education has approved their participation and the requirements of the Homeschool Guidelines have been satisfied. Properly enrolled students on Home Instruction provided by the Board of Education are eligible if the student satisfies Section 4E. (Refer to NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies and Procedures).

[Adopted by the Executive Committee 11/12/2025]

CL 2: Students who are residing with a host family while their parents/guardians are domiciled elsewhere in the United States are not eligible for interscholastic competition at NJSIAA member schools unless the host family has obtained full, court appointed guardianship.

Section 2

Amateur-Athlete – An amateur-athlete is one who participates in athletics solely for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits derived from such participation.

The following is a list of principles student-athletes must abide by to retain their amateur status, and thus, their NJSIAA eligibility:

- A. A student-athlete may not participate in any athletic activity under an assumed name.
- B. Professional Athletics. A student-athlete may participate as an individual, or as a member of a team against professional athletes, or as a member of a team on which there are some professionals who are not currently under contract with a professional team and are not receiving money for their participation. However, a student-athlete may not (1) sign a contract to play professional athletics (whether for a money consideration or not); or (2) receive a salary or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization.
- C. Outside Work. Student-athletes are permitted to receive payments for coaching and providing athletic instruction, however student-athletes may not play on the teams that they coach. The student-athlete's compensation must be commensurate with the work performed.

D. Name, Image and Likeness. A student-athlete may profit off of the use of their own name, image and likeness (NIL). Such permissible activities include commercial endorsements, promotional activities, social media presence, product or service advertisements, and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

No school or anyone employed by a member school, including coaches and administrators, may be involved with a student-athlete's use of their NIL. No one associated with or acting at the direction of a member school, such as booster clubs, alumni, or collectives, may use the promise of NIL opportunities to entice student-athletes to transfer to or attend their school.

Student-athletes are prohibited from making any reference to a member school or the NJSIAA when engaging in any NIL activity. Student-athletes may not endorse or promote any third-party entities, goods or services during team activities. Student-athletes may not wear the apparel or display the logo, insignia, or identifying mark of an NIL partner during any team activities. Student-athletes are prohibited from participating in an NIL club that is based on their affiliation with a member school's interscholastic team, or an NIL club that references a member school or a member school's interscholastic team.

Student-athletes are prohibited from engaging in any NIL activities involving the following categories of products and services:

- (1) Adult entertainment products and services;
- (2) Alcohol products;
- (3) Tobacco and nicotine-related products;
- (4) Cannabis products;
- (5) Controlled dangerous substances;
- (6) Prescription pharmaceuticals;
- (7) Casinos and gambling, including sports betting, the lottery, and betting in connection with video games, on-line games and mobile devices; and
- (8) Weapons, firearms and ammunition.

E. Awards. A student-athlete may only accept individual interscholastic awards and similar mementos if the award is approved by the local Board of Education or school governing body, in keeping with traditional high school requirements which are basically symbolic in nature, i.e., letters, sweaters, jackets, pins, trophies, rings and watches. No other award of monetary value may be granted to any student-athlete without prior approval by the local Board of Education or school governing body and the NJSIAA. Also, a student-athlete may accept a monetary award under the United States Olympic Committee's "Operation Gold" program without compromising his/her eligibility for NJSIAA competition. Operation Gold awards athletes for top-place finishes in a sport's most competitive international competition of the year.

F. Participation in Non-NJSIAA Events. A student-athlete who participates in non-NJSIAA events may receive reasonable travel, meal and lodging expenses. Beyond reasonable, travel, meal and lodging expenses, a student-athlete may accept sports-related paraphernalia with a monetary value not to exceed \$500.00.

Note – Compliance with this provision does not ensure maintenance of eligibility under the eligibility standards of other athletic organizations, such as, but not limited to, the NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, etc. Student-athletes are encouraged to communicate with those organizations to ensure any activity complies with those eligibility standards.

Section 3

Reinstatement of Amateur Eligibility – The Executive Committee of the NJSIAA is the only body that may reinstate a student-athlete of a member school to eligibility status under the provisions of the organization’s Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations. In cases where the Executive Committee has determined that a student-athlete inadvertently participated in an activity that has caused his/her loss of eligibility, the Executive Committee may reinstate said athlete after a period of not less than one year. An application for reinstatement must be made in writing by the high school Principal to the Executive Committee and shall include all data pertinent to the case.

Section 4

Eligibility Requirements – Eligibility rules herewith stated shall apply to all freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity teams involved in interscholastic athletic competition.

Ineligibility Lists – Member schools must submit an affidavit of ineligible student-athletes to the Executive Director of the NJSIAA annually for each of the three seasons prior to the beginning of those seasons. This form, signed by the Principal, will certify that any and all students listed do not meet the eligibility requirements of the NJSIAA. This affidavit should be based on carefully compiled lists of ineligible student-athletes for all sports in that season which are on file in each member school and in the event of any questions, are available upon request by other member schools and/or appropriate NJSIAA officials. Schools may use their own form as long as all the information is provided on that form.

CL: This record must be compiled prior to the student-athlete’s participation in the first interschool scrimmage or game in that sport and kept on file in the Principal’s office. Schools are reminded that determining eligibility or ineligibility must be based on the following: (a) name of the student-athletes, (b) date of birth, (c) documentary proof of age (birth certificate, baptismal certificate, insurance policy or school record), (d) date of first enrollment in 9th grade, and (e) school from which student-athlete transferred, if such transfer was effected during the current or just past school year, (f) credits passed previous year (first semester eligibility) or previous semester (second semester eligibility), and (g) participation prior to entry into the 9th grade.

- A. **Eligibility Certification** – Upon the request of the Executive Director, schools must furnish him/her with lists of ineligible student/athletes for their various teams, containing such information as he may deem necessary.
- B. **Eligibility Responsibility** – The Principal of a school is responsible for the observance of the eligibility rules contained in this Article and for the entire program of his/her member school.

CL: It is local option for schools to permit ineligible students to practice or compete in interscholastic scrimmages while ineligible for regular or post-season games. [Scrimmages refer to pre-season scrimmages only and not scrimmages during the regular season or post-season for those sports that allow such.] Such practices will count to satisfy the six (6) days practice rule. The above is applicable provided the school meets the medical examination and parental permission as required by the State Board of Education.

- C. **Age** – An athlete becomes ineligible for high school athletics if he/she attains the age of nineteen prior to September 1. However, any athlete attaining age nineteen (19) on or after September 1 shall be eligible for the ensuing school year. A birth certificate, issued at the time of birth, is the normal proof of age; in the absence of this, other proofs may be used. The records used will be baptismal records or the earliest school records.

CL 1: The following evidence of proof of age can be used when the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state of birth reports no records exist:

1. Birth certificate.
2. Affidavit of attending physician.
3. Documentary evidence, such as family record of birth in Bible, certificate of arrival in the United States, or a passport.
4. Public school records, school, state or national census records.
5. Baptismal certificate.

CL 2: This requirement will not be waived for the sole reason that a student was born day(s), week(s), or month(s) just prior to September 1.

CL 3: In order to assure the opportunity for eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility, member schools may request waivers to permit students who are enrolled in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and who are otherwise academically eligible, to participate on the junior varsity or varsity teams where such students will be sixteen (16) years of age or older upon entrance into the 9th grade prior to September 1st. Guidance Departments/School Administrators of elementary schools should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all students so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

- D. Athletic Recruitment** – This subsection prohibits the recruiting of high school students. For the purposes of this subsection, a student becomes a “high school student” on the first day the student attends ninth grade, or the first day the student attends fall sports practice prior to the student’s ninth grade year, whichever is earlier.

CL 1: Paragraphs 2(c) and 5 below are applicable to students of all grade levels, not just high school students.

1. Athletic recruitment is contrary to the purposes and objectives of high school sports. Prohibiting athletic recruitment helps to keep athletics in its proper place and subordinate to academics; protects student-athletes from those having interests that might not be consistent with the interests of the student-athletes; and maintains competitive equity on a level playing field among member schools.
2. Athletic recruitment is defined as any effort to, proselytize, pressure, urge or entice a student to transfer to a school for athletic purposes. It is a violation for a member school to engage in athletic recruitment or for a student-athlete to transfer to a school as a result of athletic recruitment. Athletic recruitment includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Using mail, letters, brochures, or news media to compare high schools and to solely point out the athletic assets of the sender;
 - b. Engaging in proselytizing interviews or communications, initiated by school personnel or associates;
 - c. Offering athletic scholarships, free tuition or other monetary assistance, either from the school directly or indirectly through some affiliated body or individual, to induce a student to attend the school for athletic reasons.
3. A member school shall be responsible for athletic recruitment by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school, including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school.
4. Any evidence of recruiting by a member school shall subject the school to a hearing before the

Controversies Committee. A school that is found to have violated the athletic recruitment rule shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Article X.

5. Any evidence that a student has moved to a residence associated with, leased, or provided by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school, including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school, shall be considered prima facie evidence of recruiting.

CL 1: Boarding at a boarding school shall not be considered prima facie evidence of recruiting. A boarding school is defined as a school which has an enrolled boarding school population in grades 9 through 12 of at least 25 students or five percent of the full student enrollment, whichever is larger. Boarding students must spend at least an average of five days per week living and boarding on campus while school is in session.

E. Credits

1. To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester (September 1 to January 31) a pupil must have passed 25% of the credits (30) required by the State of New Jersey for graduation (120), during the immediately preceding academic year.
2. To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 to June 30), a pupil must have passed the equivalent of 12^{1/2}% of the credits (15) required by New Jersey for graduation (120) at the close of the preceding semester (Jan. 31). Full-year courses shall be equated as one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.

CL 1: The NJSIAA does not establish grading policies or standards for granting credits. The local school's Board of Education has the exclusive authority to address such matters within the parameters of the State Board of Education guidelines. Therefore, the NJSIAA will not waive, either the standards set by a member school or the minimum standards set forth in Article V, Section 4.E except as provided in Section 4.F (1).

CL 2: The credit status of a transferred student, determined by the previous school, may not be changed by the present school.

CL 3: There is no provision for make-up work for credits for second semester.

CL 4: Waivers will not be considered for a senior who does not attain 15 credits and who fails a subject in his/her first semester, unless that senior is passing all subjects in the subsequent marking period. The student must be on track for graduation and passing all classes during the third marking period.

CL 5: A student in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade, who is ineligible under Article V, Section 4.E(2) may become eligible for the remainder of the spring sports season on May 1, if the student meets the requirements of Article V, Section 4E(2) as of that date. A student in 12th grade may become eligible at the end of the third marking period, rather than wait until May 1st.

Note: In order for a 9th, 10th, or 11th grader to become eligible per CL 5, the student must be passing all courses taken during the 3rd marking period and accumulated 22.50 credits when grades are averaged for marking periods 1, 2, and 3. 22.50 credits after three (3) marking periods puts the student-athlete on track to obtain the required 30 credits at the end of the school year.

3. The above paragraph 1 shall not apply to incoming students from grammar school (8th grade).
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 1 and 2 above, a pupil who is eligible at the beginning of a sports season shall be allowed to finish that season.

CL 1: According to regulations of the New Jersey State Board of Education, credit must be assigned equally to all secondary school courses. Thus, courses which at one time were considered "minor," e.g. Physical education, art, music, industrial arts, etc., must be included in the determination of academic requirements.

CL 2: Graduation Requirements – The provisions of Article V, Section 4.E (1) and (2) of the Bylaws will not be waived even though a school allows a student to carry only those courses necessary to meet minimal graduation diploma credit requirements.

- a. If a student has received a diploma, he/she is ineligible. However, he/she may continue to represent his/her school until the official end of that semester—either January 31 or June 30.*
- b. If a student has left school, but re-enrolls, he/she will be eligible thirty (30) calendar days from the date of re-enrollment.*
- c. If a student has continued enrollment while absent from school, he/she will be eligible provided he/she is enrolled in and attends at least one course.*

CL 3: It is recognized that students may accelerate their academic programs during their first three years of secondary schooling. Consequently, such students may be eligible in the second semester of their senior year even when they carry less than 12½% of the State minimum (15 credits) during the first semester provided they are meeting their school district's graduation requirements and are passing all courses. Seniors who withdraw from courses will be eligible provided they are carrying sufficient credits for graduation purposes.

CL 4: When a student does not fail a course and/or withdraws passing and is unable to pass the required credits for reasons not under the control of the student, or the school, a waiver shall be granted. A student who enters from an out-of-state school or a foreign country that has passed all courses in which the student is enrolled, meets the requirements of this Section.

CL 5: Students receiving credits for courses at their previous school may use those credits to satisfy the credit requirements for athletic eligibility even though the present school does not grant credit for same. Such a situation is acceptable only on an immediate basis at the time of the transfer. The student subsequently becomes subject to the requirements of the present school.

CL 6: An athlete, whose education is interrupted after his/her entrance into the 9th grade (4 or 6 yr. high school) or 10th grade (3 yr. high school) and who does not pass the required courses as provided for in Article V, Section 4.E (1) and (2) of the Bylaws at the end of the semester, upon being readmitted at the beginning of the next semester, is ineligible for failure to meet the requirements of this section.

Exceptions to this rule are returned servicemen/servicewomen who have been honorably discharged and cases of unavoidable absence due to illness. Substance abuse is not considered as unavoidable absence due to illness; when illegal substance is the reason for not passing the required credits, a waiver will not be granted.

CL 7: An athlete who is ineligible under Article V, Section 4.E (1), may become eligible for the remainder of the winter sports season on February 1 if he/she meets the requirements of Article V, Section 4.E (2).

CL 8: Any summer work for makeup purposes for failed courses, completed and approved by the school before the sixth school day, in the Fall semester, may be used for eligibility purposes.

CL 9: A student eligible to represent his/her school in Winter Sports may continue to do so until the end of that season.

CL 10: A passing grade for a semester can only be used once for eligibility purposes. A student who has a semester's passing grade in a subject may not repeat that subject during a later semester and use it for eligibility purposes.

F. Handicapped/Classified Students

1. Course Waiver – All handicapped/classified students, as defined by the New Jersey State Department of Education, defined as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-(IDEA), shall comply with the athletic eligibility rules and regulations of the NJSIAA (with the exception of Section 4.E of this Article V re: Credits), and in addition the student must have evidence of the following:

- a. Parents, or guardians, must give consent for such competitive experience.
- b. The Child Study Team must certify that the student successfully completed the I.E.P. in the previous year/semester commensurate with the student's ability. Final approval for participation must be given by the Principal.

CL 1: A student who is initially classified after failing to have satisfied the provisions of Section 4.E Credits (30 or 15) cannot regain eligibility until the Child Study Team has monitored that classified student for a semester/90 school days.

CL 2: Courses cannot be waived for ADA or 504 students.

- c. The medical inspector of the school district must certify that the youth has physical ability to compete equally with other participants.

2. Definition – Since handicapped or “disabled” children (as defined in this section) are not subject to Section 4.E of this Article V, the academic credit rule, it is important that schools understand what children may be eligible.

- a. Any handicapped child must be in a program approved by the State Department of Education for handicapped children.
- b. Any handicapped child must be classified as such by an examiner approved by the State Department of Education.
- c. Any handicapped child must be approved by the local Child Study Team to attend regular high school classes, home instruction, or he/she must be a member of a class in which he/she spends the greater part of each school day with other children under a teacher holding a certificate to teach.
- d. All handicapped students, assigned to another school by the Board of Education, Division of Child Protection and Permanency and the courts and classified by the Child Study Team, will be eligible to compete on the interscholastic athletic teams of the school district in which the student resides, providing such receiving school does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program in that sport, and so long as such students meet all other applicable NJSIAA eligibility requirements.

CL 1: Exception: In County Special Services School Districts, e.g., Bergen County where the district

is not an adjunct school of the local public school district and where all schools are under the authority of the same Superintendent of Schools, all students are eligible to participate in the interscholastic athletic programs of that County's vocational high school(s) unless they are approved to participate at the public high school where they reside and are processed as provided for in Section 4.F (2)e. and 4.G–CL 3.

- e. A handicapped student is permitted to participate in the interscholastic program of the school where the student is enrolled or the school where the student resides, when extenuating circumstances are present. A waiver shall be granted, upon review, by the NJSIAA Executive Director or designee when agreed to by the principals of the involved schools.

G. Enrollment

1. Late Enrollment – A student who enters school after the first Monday in October shall not be eligible to represent that school until after the lapse of thirty (30) calendar days from date of his/her first entrance.

Note: The term “entrance” as used in this section and elsewhere in these Bylaws, means registration plus actual attendance at a school.

CL 1: Late enrollment refers to a student who does not enroll at any school at the beginning of the school year.

CL 2: A short period of enrollment at any school will not be treated as entrance to that school and/or subsequent transfer will be recognized as uninterrupted enrollment at the original school absent any appeal from the previous school.

2. Initial Enrollment – At the beginning of his/her secondary school career a student is free to choose any secondary school he/she may legally attend, (9th grade in a 4- or 6-year high school or 10th grade in a 3-year high school).

Note: After this initial enrollment a student is subject to the transfer provision as provided for in Section 4.K (2) of this Article.

CL 1: A high school student is a regularly enrolled student as defined by the Department of Education.

CL 2: Vo-Tech/Public Academy Shared Time – When a student is carried on the Official Register and attends some classes at a school, but also attends additional classes at another school, he/she is eligible for interscholastic athletics at the school where he/she is carried on the Official Register. If a student is carried on both Official Registers, the student may choose the school at which he/she wishes to participate in all sports on a full school-year basis.

CL 3: Vo-Tech/Public Academy Full Time – If a Vocational/Technical High School/Public Academy does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students desires to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her sending school upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Vocational/Technical High School/Public Academy.

CL 4: Charter School – If a secondary Charter School does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students wishes to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her school of residence upon agreement of both principals, regardless of the number of sports programs

offered at the Charter School.

CL 5: Choice School – A choice student who attends a Choice School, pursuant to regulations adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education, shall be subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K (1) and (2).

CL 6: Disabled Students: A pupil who is disabled and who is placed by the parents or guardians at their own expense in a non-public school for treatment of the disability shall be eligible to participate in the interscholastic athletic program of the student's resident school district, provided the student otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the program and the student's participation has written approval of the board of education of the school district where the program is located.

CL 7: Vo-Tech/Academy/Public Sending District- When a student enrolls in an academy program through a Vo-Tech school (School A) which is housed at another District's High School (School B) which is different from the student's home sending district's high school (School C), he/she is eligible for interscholastic athletics where he or she is carried on the Official Register from School A or School B. If a student is carried on both School A and School B's registers, the student may choose the school at which he/she wishes to participate in all sports on a full school-year basis. The student is not eligible for interscholastic sports from his/her home sending district (School C) regardless of what sports are offered at School A and School B.

- H. **Post-Graduates** – No post-graduate student shall be eligible for high school competition. When a student graduates from a school (days or weeks) before the official end of the semester that student may continue to represent his/her school until the official end of that semester – either January 31 or June 30. A student becomes ineligible for high school athletics when the class in which he/she originally enrolled is graduated.

CL: A League/Conference or County may grant a waiver (as provided for in the Rules & Regulations, Rule 2, Specific Sport Regulations, Note 3) to permit teams or individuals from the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools to participate if such Student-Athletes are in the first year of post-high school matriculation.

- I. **Pre-High School Students** – Students in any 9th grade are eligible for teams in the Senior High School in that district at the discretion of the administrators and the Board of Education in that district. Students in any 6th, 7th, or 8th grades of any school (Jr. High or Sr. High) who play on 9th grade or so-called freshman or sophomore, junior varsity and varsity teams will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters of such participation. Junior High School 9th grade teams may play against 9th grade teams from 4-year or 6-year high schools.

CL 1: Article V, Section 4.I is applicable to all 9th graders including those which are under the supervision and control of an administrative head (Principal) separate and apart from the administrative head (Principal) of the Senior High School. All 9th grade students in an 8-4, 6-6 or 6-3-3, or other administrative plan may participate on a junior varsity or varsity team without jeopardizing their eligibility to participate on a 9th grade team in that sport; however, when 9th grade students are under a separate administrative head than that of the Senior High School such agreement must be affirmed, in writing, to the NJSIAA over the signature of both administrative heads.

Any 9th grade student-athlete who participates on a junior varsity or varsity team or any team at the high school level will be subject to the eligibility provisions of the Bylaws, Article V, 4.G (2).

This means that such 9th grade students will be subject to the transfer provisions of Article V, Section 4.K.

CL 2: Students below the 9th grade are not permitted to practice with students of grade nine (9) through twelve (12), neither may they “suit up” with those teams for games or scrimmages involving grades nine (9) through twelve (12) unless a waiver has been granted (to ensure eight (8) consecutive semesters of participation). Student will be considered to have begun his/her eight semesters of eligibility on a sport specific basis pursuant to Article V, Section 4.I.

CL 3: All games in which 6th, 7th and 8th grade students participate will cause forfeiture of said games under this Section unless a waiver has been granted.

CL 4: Students in 6th, 7th or 8th grades who will reach age sixteen (16) prior to September 1 while properly enrolled in a member school may request a waiver of the Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.I, Pre-High School Student, to have an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics for four (4) years prior to becoming ineligible.

J. Semester of Eligibility:

1. No student shall be eligible for high school athletics after the expiration of eight consecutive semesters following his/her entrance into the 9th grade. A student becomes ineligible for high school athletics when the class in which he/she was originally enrolled has graduated.
2. This rule shall not apply to classified students who are ungraded. Classified students who are ungraded will have eight consecutive semesters of eligibility beginning with the first semester of participation in interscholastic athletics at the freshman, junior varsity, or varsity level.
3. This rule shall not apply to an honorably discharged serviceman/servicewoman, in which case the Executive Committee may make any adjustments of this rule as it may deem equitable.
4. Students below the 9th grade who participate on a high school team will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the student’s initial pre-9th grade participation. If a student’s pre-high school participation in high school sports occurred in a state other than New Jersey, the student’s eight consecutive semesters of eligibility shall begin when the student enters high school, provided that (a) the student has transferred into New Jersey via a change of residence; (b) a Transfer Form has been completed; and (c) the student meets all other eligibility requirements, including academic requirements.

CL 1: In order to assure the opportunity for eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility, member schools may request waivers to permit students who are enrolled in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and who are otherwise academically eligible, to participate on the junior varsity or varsity teams where such students will be sixteen (16) years of age or older upon entrance into the 9th grade prior to September 1st. Guidance Departments/School Administrators of elementary schools should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all students that qualify under this Clarification so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

CL 2: Guidance Departments should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all classified students so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

K. Transfers

1. Purpose:
NJSIAA’s mission is to administer education-based interscholastic athletics, which support academic achievement, good citizenship, and fair and equitable opportunities. Transfers for athletic reasons undermine the stability of sports programs, elevate athletics over academics, lead

to disparities in competitiveness, and erode the level playing field that the NJSIAA seeks to foster. Multiple transfers within a high school career disrupt a student's education. Transfers after a sports season has started not only disrupts the team, but also the competitive balance among schools.

This rule is designed to discourage transfers for athletic reasons, multiple transfers, and transfers after a sports season has begun, by imposing short but predictable periods of ineligibility for those transfers while providing one penalty-free transfer under certain conditions.

Because the periods of ineligibility set forth in this rule are among the shortest in the nation, and the purpose of the rule is designed to deter inappropriate transfers, there shall be no waivers of this rule.

2. Definitions:

Transfer: A "transfer" occurs when a student who has previously enrolled in a secondary school leaves that school and enrolls in a new one. The date of transfer shall be the earlier of the first day of class or the first day of sports participation at the new school.

CL1: It is considered a transfer if a homeschooled student moves from homeschooling to a high school or from a high school to homeschooling. If the student's home district has a Board of Education policy that permits homeschooled students to participate in sports, the student will be exempt from the penalty sit when transferring from homeschooling to the home district or from the home district to homeschooling.

CL 2: A transfer student is eligible to participate in sports at the new high school when (1) the student has enrolled at the new school and (2) the student has either withdrawn from the former school, or the school year has concluded at the former school. Acceptance or admission alone does not constitute enrollment. This clarification is applicable to the school year and summer recess period.

CL 3: Sports participation at the new school includes participation in summer sports activities. Therefore, students who participate in summer sports activities at their new school, and subsequently transfer to another school, or return to their former school, prior to the start of the school year, are subject to the 30-day period of ineligibility for a second transfer.

Participation: "Participation" means attending practice or playing in contests or scrimmages in a particular sport.

Senior Transfer: A "Senior Transfer" is a student-athlete whose first transfer occurs during or after their third season of eligibility in a particular sport in which they participated in during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

Start of Practice Date: "The Start of Practice Date" is the first day of practice for each sport as set forth annually in the Program Regulations, Section 6.

Competition Start Date: The "Competition Start Date" is the day of the school's first regular season contest in each sport.

HIB Transfer: Under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, a state law that public schools are required to follow and non-public schools are encouraged to follow, harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) are matters that are investigated and addressed by the school. The NJSIAA does not hold hearings to determine whether a student was bullied. A "HIB transfer" will exist when a

school, after investigating a HIB complaint, determines that the proper action to remediate the complaint is an alternative placement or a school transfer.

Maximum Number of Contests: The “Maximum Number of Contests” for each sport are as set forth in the Program Regulations, Section 15. For football, the sit-out period will be three (3) games for a 22-day period of ineligibility, and four (4) games for a 30-day period of ineligibility, regardless of the maximum number of contests. For wrestling and other sports without a maximum number of contests listed in the Program Regulations, the period of ineligibility shall be the number of days specified in each section below.

3. A student’s first transfer:
Students are entitled to one penalty-free transfer during the first six semesters after their initial high school enrollment, provided that the transfer occurs on or before the Start of Practice Date of the sports season in which the transfer occurs.
4. Transfers occurring after the Start of Practice:
Students who transfer after the Start of Practice Date will be subject to a 30-day period of ineligibility (or $\frac{1}{2}$ the Maximum Number of Contests in that sport, whichever is less).
5. Transfers occurring after the Competition Start Date:
In addition to the period of ineligibility set forth in Section 4 above, any student who transfers after the Competition Start Date will not be eligible for NJSIAA postseason competition in that sport.
6. A student’s second or subsequent transfer:
Students who transfer a second or subsequent time will be subject to a 30-day period of ineligibility (or $\frac{1}{2}$ the Maximum Number of Contests, whichever is less) for all NJSIAA sanctioned sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer.
7. Senior transfers:
Senior transfers, as defined above, are subject to a 22-day period of ineligibility (or $\frac{1}{3}$ the Maximum Number of Contests, whichever is less) in each sport in which they participated during or after their third season of eligibility, during the 12 months preceding the transfer.
8. General application:
 - a. This Transfer Rule applies to all athletes at all levels of participation (not just varsity athletes) and is applicable to all NJSIAA-sanctioned sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer. Transferring students may participate in a new sport without penalty.
 - b. The period of ineligibility will begin on the Competition Start Date of each sport. For students who transfer after the Competition Start Date, the period of ineligibility will begin on the date of enrollment and will not include any days or games occurring after a school’s last regular season game prior to the start of the playoffs.
 - c. When calculating the period of ineligibility using the Maximum Number of Contests, NJSIAA will round down to the nearest whole number if the number of contests is not divided evenly. For example, if the Maximum Number of Contests were 14, then the calculation for a Senior Transfer (14 divided by 3) would be 5.67 and rounded down to a 5 contest sit.
9. Exceptions:

Immediate eligibility, without penalty, will be granted for transfers resulting from DCP&P placement, HIB transfers, and military transfers.

10. **Enforcement:**

The NJSIAA monitors transfers with the cooperation of the member schools. To that end, the NJSIAA maintains an online Transfer Portal. For each transferring student, the sending school and the receiving school must enter the required information into the Transfer Portal.

All Bylaws, rules and regulations in conflict with this new section shall be declared void.

- L. **Administrative Responsibility** – The Association must rely upon the voluntary compliance by its member schools in enforcing the eligibility standards set forth in this article. Toward that end, the Principal in each member school has the affirmative obligation to report to the NJSIAA any violations of these standards. The fact that a school has disclosed that there has been an eligibility violation will not relieve the affected school of sanctions that may be imposed against it, pursuant to Article X of these By-Laws, including the forfeiture of games or events. However, the failure to disclose an eligibility violation may be grounds for imposing additional sanctions upon the offending school.

CL 1: Although the penalty of forfeiture for the use of an ineligible player is mandatory and not appealable to the Executive Committee, the school may appeal the determination of eligibility provided such request for waiver occurs prior to the participation by the student-athlete.

CL 2: Participation by an ineligible player in any game during the regular season results in forfeiture of said game. If such forfeit(s) would have caused the school's failure to qualify for the tournament or if an ineligible player participates in a tournament game, said SCHOOL will be disqualified from the tournament immediately, unless the championship has been concluded, and their last opponent will advance in their place. Schools eliminated prior to the last opponent will not re-enter tournament competition.

M. **International Students, Foreign Students, and Other Students from Foreign Countries**

1. **International Student Defined:** An International Student is a student:

- a. who is in the United States on a U.S. Department of State-issued J-1 or F-1 visa; and
- b. who has moved to the United States without their parent or guardian; and
- c. whose parents/guardians are domiciled in a foreign country; and
- d. who is enrolled, as a full-time student, at an NJSIAA member school; and
- e. who has not graduated from the secondary school system in their home country (or that country's high school equivalent); and
- f. who is participating in a Council on Standards for International Students (CSIET) approved program.

2. **International Student Eligibility Requirements:**

- a. An International Student is eligible for one season of varsity athletics and unlimited seasons of sub-varsity athletics, per sport, if all of the following conditions are met:
 - i. The student satisfies the requirements to be considered an International Student, as listed above; and
 - ii. The student has been assigned to a host family without any prior contact or influence from the student, the student's parents, the school, or any other interested parties before the placement.; and
 - iii. The student was not selected or placed on any basis relating to the student's athletic abilities/interests; and
 - iv. The student does not reside with district staff members, boosters, or coaching staff

- (paid or voluntary); and
- v. The student and school have completed the NJSIAA International Student Eligibility Form, and it has been approved by the NJSIAA; and
- vi. The student has not been previously enrolled in another U.S. school, or participated on a U.S. athletic team (club, school, or otherwise); and
- vii. The student meets all eligibility requirements in Article V of NJSIAA Bylaws.

[Adopted by the Executive Committee 1/21/2026]

CL 1: Any student who is residing with a district staff member will remain ineligible for varsity sports as per requirement iv above but will be eligible for unlimited seasons of sub-varsity sports.

- b. Notwithstanding any provision of Article V, a student who receives eligibility under this section shall thereafter be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at that or any other NJSIAA member school.
- c. Sections 1 and 2 are not applicable to students who move to the United States with their parent/guardian as defined in Section 8.
- d. Schools are limited to one international student per varsity team during a given season. There is no limit on the number of international students participating at the sub-varsity level.

[Adopted by the Executive Committee 1/21/2026]

CL 2: International students who would otherwise have to compete at the sub-varsity level may participate alongside varsity athletes in the following sports, when sub-varsity levels do not exist: Cross Country, Gymnastics, Bowling, Swimming/Diving, Fencing, Golf and Track & Field. However, their results may not count toward the varsity score or outcome.

3. **Foreign Student Defined:** A foreign student is a student who has moved to the United States from a foreign country, and whose parents/guardians are domiciled in a foreign country, but who does not qualify as an International Student pursuant to Section 1 above, and/ or does not meet the eligibility requirements for International Students outlined in Section 2 above. A foreign student is not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at NJSIAA member schools.
4. **American Dependencies:** Students from American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and other dependencies of the United States, are neither Foreign Students nor International Students. Said students are eligible to participate in high school sports in New Jersey upon meeting the eligibility requirements of Article V.
5. **Refugees:** Any student who is considered a refugee, or has been granted asylum, or whose parents are considered refugees or have been granted asylum, by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), shall be eligible to participate in high school sports in New Jersey upon meeting the eligibility requirements of Article V.
6. **Parolees:** Any student who has enrolled in a NJSIAA member school and is approved as a parolee, or whose parents have gained parole status, through USCIS shall be eligible to participate in high school sports in New Jersey upon meeting the eligibility requirements of Article V.
7. **Moving with Parent/Guardian:** Any student who has moved to the United States from a foreign country with a parent/guardian, or who has moved to the United States from a foreign country to live with a person who has a biological relationship with the student, shall be eligible to participate in high school sports in New Jersey upon meeting the eligibility requirements of Article V.
8. **Boarding Schools:** Any student who boards at a NJSIAA member school that offers on-site boarding

shall be eligible to participate in high school sports in New Jersey upon meeting the eligibility requirements of Article V.

9. **Effective Date:** The effective date of this Bylaw is September 1, 2024. This Bylaw shall apply to students enrolling at NJSIAA member schools after that date. For clarification purposes, this Bylaw applies to any student who starts classes after the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.

Article VI CONTRACTS

Section 1

The Principal of the school is responsible to the State Association for all matters pertaining to the athletic relation of his/her school, and all contracts must be signed by the Principal.

Section 2

All athletic contests between schools shall be regulated by written contract, setting forth the details of time, place, finances, officials, or other agreed upon provisions.

CL 1: "Principal" refers to high school principal, superintendent of schools, or headmaster in this and all sections of the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations.

CL 2: Schedules approved by Leagues or Conferences will constitute contractual obligations for the purposes of this article.

CL 3: All athletic contests between schools must be approved by the District Board of Education.

CL 4: It is recommended that written contracts be executed for all scrimmages.

CL 5: Absence of a written contract, or as provided here, declares nonexistence of an obligation by either party.

Article VII PROTESTS

Section 1

Protests against alleged violations of contracts, violations of the accepted standards of good sportsmanship, or the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association, should be reported in writing and posted by the Principals of the participating schools or the game officials to the Executive Committee, through the Executive Director, within one hundred twenty (120) hours of the time of such violation, with a copy to the alleged violator. Protests based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation (*misapplication*) of the playing rules will not be honored.

CL 1: The one hundred twenty (120) hour provision will be satisfied, if the school's Principal notifies the League or Conference expected to report a violation of good sportsmanship or any violation within 120 hours as required by Article IX, Section 4, and other Articles and Sections contained in the Constitution or Bylaws, cannot use the failure of such disclosure as an excuse to prevent the NJSIAA Executive Committee or Controversies Committee from taking jurisdiction of such a matter as provided by Section 4 of Article VII.

CL 2: "Protests based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules will not be honored" does not preclude a League or Conference from addressing same; however, the NJSIAA will not honor such protests for non-conference games/meets, neither will the NJSIAA hear appeals to a League or Conference decision based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules.

Section 2

There shall be a committee consisting of the Executive Director, the President, and a member of the Executive Committee who shall meet at the call of the Executive Director to hear any disputes and grant interim relief pending a decision on the matter by the Eligibility Committee, Controversies Committee or Executive Committee.

Any relief granted will expire at the end of the next Executive Committee meeting unless extended by resolution of the Executive Committee. The President and Executive Committee member, if they act in such capacity, shall be disqualified from discussion and voting on such matter before the Executive Committee.

Section 3

No protests against alleged violations of contracts shall be entertained in the absence of a duly executed contract made in accordance with Sections 1 and 2 of Article VI of the Bylaws.

Section 4

The Executive Committee may initiate proceedings on its own motion or may in its discretion refer the matter to the Controversies Committee.

Article VIII

CONTEST RULES – CHAMPIONSHIPS – OFFICIALS

Section 1

In all tournaments and meets conducted by this Association each member school must compete in its own group and section classification, unless fewer than eight (8) schools qualify. In that case, the Executive Committee may combine one or more groups. **When the Committee eliminates sectional championships because of an insufficient number of schools qualifying, the State Group Championships will be conducted on a statewide quartile basis or State Championships may be conducted without regard to Groups or Division.**

Federated members shall not be eligible for NJSIAA tournament competition.

CL 1: When submitting records for tournament qualification, schools listing forfeit wins/losses must attach an explanation for same.

CL 2: When fewer than eight (8) schools qualify in a group and section, the Executive Committee may combine one or more groups/divisions because of insufficient competition without regard to Public/Non-public classification.

Section 2

All contests involving member schools must be played according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations. This applies to all sports for which rules are formulated by that Association.

Section 3

All officials working in any NJSIAA interscholastic competition must be registered with the Association.

Section 4

The Executive Committee may approve the certification of officials and/or officials' chapters in all sports; and the minimum requirements for testing, training and evaluating all officials. (See Requirements for Registration of Officials for NJSIAA minimum requirements for approval of officials' chapters and minimum requirements for registration of officials.)

Article IX

SPORTSMANSHIP

Section 1

Statement of Administrative Responsibility:

Member schools are expected to conduct their relations with each other at all levels of competition in a spirit of good sportsmanship in keeping with the objectives we have set for ourselves. Everyone involved has the obligation to clearly see his/her influence and act accordingly.

The Association acknowledges that the school administration is responsible for the athletic program, including the making of broad and specific policies relating to sportsmanship and the conduct of activities in the schools. The school Principal, for example, as the administrative head of his/her school, has the responsibility for establishing the principles of good sportsmanship in the minds of the entire school family. He/she realizes that the kind of sportsmanship that is practiced or displayed by the representatives of his/her school will reflect to its credit or otherwise.

The Principal, therefore, is the final authority responsible for all athletic activity of his/her school at whatever level of competition in which that school is engaged. In recognition of this authority and responsibility, the following general recommendations are suggested by the Association as a guide to school administrators with respect to sportsmanship policy.

Section 2

General Guideline Recommendations:

- A. Each school administration shall establish broad and specific policies and procedures relating to sportsmanship and to identify responsibilities of administrators, coaches and students to ensure their observance.
- B. Each school administration shall insist that personnel set good examples of deportment and sportsmanship and to correct those individuals at fault at a time convenient and in a manner adequate for the situation. Reporting of the action taken, in writing, to the NJSIAA by the Principal is mandatory.
- C. Each school administration shall utilize all appropriate occasions and means to emphasize desirable deportment and sportsmanship of all coaches, students and other personnel.
- D. The supervision of trips and "away" contests shall be such as to assure that the conduct of school

representatives brings credit to themselves, their school and their sport. To this end, the Association advocates the full promotion of cooperative “host-guest” relationships between and among schools entering into athletic competition.

- E. Hazing – Continuing the focus on sportsmanship, citizenship and leadership, the NJSIAA encourages member schools to establish local policies, procedures and regulations pertaining to incidents of “Hazing.”
- F. Coaches must be cautioned not to refuse to play or to complete a game/meet. Such decisions are within the jurisdiction of the game/meet officials once game/meet has started, or rest with home management and/or tournament director if the game/meet has not started.

Penalty – Any school whose coach violates Section 2.F shall be placed on probation by the Association for not less than one year from the date of violation, and shall not receive championship recognition from this Association in that sport, or enter any championship games, matches, meets or tournament sponsored by the Association in that sport unless the NJSIAA deems sufficient administrative action has been taken against the coach. Conditions of probation are outlined in the Bylaws, Article X, Section 2.A. Probation. In addition, the coach will be fined a minimum of \$300.00.

Section 3

Association Responsibility:

The Association recognizes and appreciates that the influence and responsibility of the school administration with regard to good sportsmanship extends to all levels of competition. However, it must also be seen that the NJSIAA has been vested with the responsibility to ensure that all contests under its jurisdiction are conducted satisfactorily. In exercising its responsibility as it applies to the principles of good sportsmanship, the Association will be guided by the Sportsmanship Rule/Policy below.

SPORTSMANSHIP RULE/POLICY

High standards of courtesy, fair play and sportsmanship must be featured at association competitions.

While this rule is a general statement and one which may be difficult to reduce to objective standards in terms of enforcement, it is the heart of the entire Association program. Good sportsmanship, respect for rules, respect for others, and fair play, are basically the motives through which an interscholastic athletic program is justified and defended.

It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure that all individuals employed by or directly associated with the athletic program, including its student-athletes, comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner when representing their school, especially at interscholastic events.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject the individual to disciplinary action. The member school with which the individual is associated may also be subject to disciplinary action if it is found that the member school’s policies, actions, or failure to act, substantially contributed to the individual’s conduct.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to the following:

- A. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator.
- B. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- C. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents, or spectators.
- D. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with

a member school) who engages in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion at an interscholastic event.

- E. Any school or athletic staff member who is publicly critical of a game official, opponents and/or opposing coaches/players.
- F. The administration of a member school will be responsible for the unsportsmanlike conduct of that school's athletic department, staff members, student-athletes, fans and spectators.

CL 1: Schools are not permitted to conduct pre-meet/game activities of an intimidating nature.

Section 4

General Prohibition against Performance Enhancing Drugs:

It shall be considered a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule for any student-athlete to possess, ingest or otherwise use any of the substances on the list of banned substances, without written prescription by a fully-licensed physician, as recognized by the American Medical Association, to treat a medical condition. Violations found as a result of NJSIAA testing shall be penalized in accordance with this policy. Violations found as a result of a member school's testing shall be penalized in accordance with the school's policy. The NJSIAA policy shall consist of this general prohibition, the NJSIAA Steroid Testing Procedures, the NJSIAA Steroid Testing Protocol, and the NJSIAA Banned Drug Classes.

Section 5

Executive Authority:

- A. The Investigation of Complaints. The Association vests authority in its President and Executive Director to investigate and take appropriate action on any reported flagrant violation of the sportsmanship rule occurring during the regular season or NJSIAA tournament competitions. The President or Executive Director may request the school or the league or conference to investigate the violation and report any action taken. The President or Executive Director may also refer the violation to the Controversies Committee for investigation.
- B. Bias incidents. In addition to any other investigation undertaken by a school, league conference or the NJSIAA, the Executive Director shall forward to the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights any report of a violation of the sportsmanship rule resulting from harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion at an interscholastic event.
- C. Reported violations shall be resolved in a manner sufficient to correct the problem, and may range from a written statement of the findings by the Executive Director to the school administration, to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension, disqualification, or removal from interscholastic events.

Article X

PENALTIES

Penalties shall be assessed by the Executive Committee, Controversies Committee, or the Executive Director for infractions of the Association Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and Tournament Regulations. These penalties shall include but not be limited to:

Section 1

To ensure that member schools make certain that all student-athletes comply with eligibility standards or that they obtain appropriate waivers where necessary prior to competition, the following forfeiture penalties will be imposed: (1) If the ineligible student participates as a member of a team, the team will forfeit any contest in which the ineligible student participated, regardless of how long the ineligible student participated in the contest. (2) If the ineligible student participates as an individual, in an event or tournament at which no team score is calculated or team champion declared, the ineligible student will forfeit any contest won. These penalties are mandatory and are not subject to appeal.

CL 1: Although the penalty of forfeiture for the use of an ineligible player is mandatory and not appealable to the Executive Committee, the school may appeal the determination of eligibility.

Section 2

After conducting a hearing and subject to an appeal to the Executive Committee, as set forth in Article XIII of the Bylaws, the Controversies Committee may impose the penalties set forth in this Section.

- A. Probation – A probationary period not to exceed two years may be imposed, which may include a requirement that a member school submit appropriate reports to the Association, certifying that the violations are not continuing. The Controversies Committee may determine that an offending school may not participate in championship contests in the sport in which the violation occurred.
- B. Forfeit of Games – Under such terms and conditions as the Controversies Committee shall provide.
- C. Forfeit of Championship Rights – A school may be required to forfeit championship rights as determined by the Controversies Committee.
- D. Suspension of Coaches and Players – In addition to any disqualifications imposed for unsportsmanlike and flagrant verbal or physical misconduct during an interscholastic contest a coach or player may be suspended for a violation of the Constitution and Bylaws or Rules of this Association, or for violations of the rules of good sportsmanship or the rules of a particular game.

CL 1: A member school's head coach shall be held responsible for the head coach's actions and the actions of all assistants and staff who report, directly or indirectly, to the head coach.

- E. Fines – Member schools, Principals, Athletic Directors, and/or coaches may be fined by the Controversies Committee in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 per party. Member schools may also be required to pay any property damages caused by their improper behavior and for the transcript and court stenographer costs of the Controversies Committee hearing, which would be payable within sixty (60) days.

Section 3

The Executive Committee may, on good cause shown, temporarily suspend a member school from participation in any state tournament, if the member school: (a) fails to appear before the Controversies Committee upon receipt of a hearing notice, or (b) fails to cooperate with an investigation arranged by the Executive Director.

Section 4

Major Fines and Expulsion:

The Controversies Committee may recommend for approval by the Executive Committee, the imposition of major fines against member schools, principals, athletic directors and coaches exceeding \$5,000.00 per party for serious violations of the Bylaws or Rules of the Association and/or the expulsion of member schools and/or coaches for serious violations of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of the Association after a hearing or review on appeal by the Executive Committee, pursuant to Article XIII of the Bylaws.

Section 5

Executive Director Imposed Fines:

- A. The Executive Director shall have the authority to impose fines for violations of tournament regulations, including but not limited to: missing deadlines for entering state tournaments, withdrawing from state tournaments, failing to enter participants prior to an event, and failing to timely report scores or results as required. All such fines shall be set forth on a violations schedule that is approved annually by the Executive Committee. No such fine shall exceed \$300. There shall be no appeal from the Executive Director's imposition of a fine under this section.

- B. Any coach disqualified by an official shall be fined \$200. There shall be no appeal from the Executive Director's imposition of a fine under this section.

Article XI

ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1

The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held on the first Monday in May.

Section 2

The Executive Director shall draw up the agenda to include all legislative proposals which have been properly presented and such other business which the Executive Committee has approved.

Section 3

Each school holding membership shall have one vote on subjects before the meeting. Only one accredited delegate shall vote for each school.

Section 4

A quorum shall be defined as a majority of the member schools which must be present at the beginning of the meeting.

Section 5

The Executive Committee shall engage the services of a competent parliamentarian whose rulings shall be binding upon the chairperson and all member schools. The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with recognized rules of parliamentary law.

Section 6

The minutes of the Annual Meeting shall show the full and exact vote of the membership on each proposal.

Article XII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1

For the purposes of these Bylaws the term "boy" or "he" refers to all students, both male and female.

Section 2

All Constitutions of Conferences will be submitted to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Executive Committee for review.

Section 3

All Constitutions shall maintain a provision to the effect "only member schools of New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association may be voting members of the Conference providing, however, that affiliated (non-voting) membership may be afforded to any school which is not a member of the said Association."

Article XIII

HEARING PROCEDURE

Section 1

The President of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association shall nominate an Eligibility Committee and a Controversies Committee of no less than four members each and a chairman of each committee, none of whom shall be members of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Executive Committee. The Eligibility Committee will make initial determinations of controversies involving eligibility except unsigned Transfer Forms arising under the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. The Controversies Committee shall make determinations of all other controversies arising under the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

*CL 1: The Eligibility Committee meets **six** times per year at the beginning of each of the three sports seasons and at the end of the year. This Committee makes determinations based on written documentation.*

CL 2: The Eligibility Committee shall only rule on waiver requests submitted by member schools. All initial eligibility waiver requests must be filed by member schools on behalf of the student-athlete.

Those persons nominated to the Controversies Committee shall be members of the Advisory Committee of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. Those persons nominated to both Committees by the President, shall be confirmed by the Executive Committee by a majority vote prior to beginning their service on the respective Committee. They shall serve for one year, to expire on the last day of June, following their appointment. The Chairman of the respective Committees shall not vote except in the case of ties. The Committees shall be as representative as possible of all groups represented on the Executive Committee of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Section 2

All appeals from initial decisions of the Eligibility Committee, as well as initial decisions when the Eligibility Committee cannot consider an eligibility request in a timely fashion, shall be determined by an Eligibility Appeals Committee, consisting of a Chairperson and the following members of the Executive Committee: 4 representatives of public high schools, one from each section of the State; 1 representative from the non-public high schools; 1 representative from either the ex-officio members or the at-large members of the Executive Committee, as they are defined in Article V of the Constitution of the NJSIAA; and 4 alternates, all of whom can vote, and one of whom shall be a representative from the non-public high schools and one of whom shall be the Second Vice President of the Association.

The First Vice President of the Association shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee and in his or her absence, the Second Vice President shall serve as Chairperson. The President of the NJSIAA shall nominate the remaining members of the Eligibility Appeals Committee, who shall be confirmed by majority vote, and who shall serve for one year to expire on the last day of June following their appointment. The Eligibility Appeals Committee shall be delegated with the final authority to render determinations concerning eligibility.

The Eligibility Appeals Committee shall consider eligibility matters, in accordance with the following procedures:

1. The Eligibility Appeals Committee shall decide an appeal on either written submissions or at a hearing.
2. Any party seeking an eligibility determination must file a request with the NJSIAA at least ten days prior to the next scheduled Eligibility Appeals Committee meeting, together with ten copies of any initial determination, and ten copies of any and all documents it wishes to have the Committee consider in determining its appeal. The request shall indicate whether the Appellant wishes to

- proceed on the basis of the written submissions or at a hearing.
3. The Eligibility Appeals Committee shall meet to determine any pending appeals on days corresponding with the regular scheduled meetings of the Executive Committee.
 4. If a hearing cannot be scheduled in a timely fashion, the Eligibility Appeals Committee may decide any appeal on the basis of the written submissions.
 5. If an eligibility appeal proceeds to a hearing, any party shall be entitled to be represented by counsel, all witnesses will be sworn and the right of cross-examination shall be provided.
 6. Four members of the Eligibility Appeals Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman shall be a non-voting member of the Committee except where there is a tie vote on any appeal. A member shall not vote on any appeal involving a school or Conference to which such member is affiliated; or an appeal that would impact upon a member's school.
 7. The Eligibility Appeals Committee may designate the Attorney for the Association as a hearing officer for any formal hearings. The hearing officer shall conduct the hearing and make all appropriate rulings concerning evidence and the manner of proceeding, but shall not cast a vote concerning the appeal.
 8. Except for private deliberations concerning a disposition of an appeal, all proceedings of the Eligibility Appeals Committee shall be transcribed by a certified court stenographer and transcripts shall be available to any requesting party, at cost.
 9. All determinations of the Eligibility Appeals Committee shall be set forth in a written decision to be sent to the parties no later than ten (10) days after the conclusion of a hearing.
 10. As a voluntary association of member schools, the NJSIAA must rely upon those schools in providing notice and all other relevant information concerning eligibility rules and appeal procedures to affected students and parents.

Section 3

Any Conference may make determinations of controversies arising out of the Conference's Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, as well as those of the NJSIAA, where such controversies involve only member schools of the Conference, but do not deal with issues of eligibility and conform with the Conference's written hearing procedures, which shall have been approved by the Executive Director of the NJSIAA.

Section 4

All complaints, protests or disputes referred to the Association by a Conference or others, shall be reviewed by the Executive Director and referred to the Controversies Committee where applicable. The Controversies Committee shall hear controversies directly or on appeal from a Conference determination. This Committee shall conduct formal hearings, on notice to all involved parties, who shall be afforded the right of counsel, the presentation of testimony under oath, cross-examination and a written decision. The Committee shall conduct hearings against any party charged with a violation of Association Bylaws or Rules, notwithstanding the failure of the charged party to attend such hearings. All parties will be allowed to submit any relevant documents or written presentations to the Controversies Committee for its consideration, provided ten copies of such submissions are provided to the NJSIAA, with a copy to each involved party, and if on appeal from a Conference determination to the affected Conference, at least ten days before the scheduled hearing.

Section 5

In the event any party is aggrieved by any decision of the Controversies Committee, it may appeal to the Executive Committee of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association which shall determine the matter in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws and Constitution of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. In considering such appeals, the Executive Committee shall serve as an appellate body, and the appeal shall be confined to the record developed before the Controversies Committee. It is recommended that at least one member of the Controversies Committee be present at all appeal hearings relating to any Controversies Committee decision. All appeals to the Executive Committee

must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$500.00 to serve as a deposit for transcript and court stenographer costs of the Executive Committee proceeding.

CL 1: It shall be the obligation of the appealing party to reproduce fifty (50) copies of any portion of the record that party will rely upon in its appeal to the Executive Committee which shall be furnished to the NJSIAA and any other parties at least ten (10) days before the scheduled Executive Committee meeting.

CL 2: The \$500.00 deposit is an estimate of transcript and reporter appearance costs for an appeal to the Executive Committee. If the appeal is successful, then the deposit will be returned to the appealing party. If the appeal is unsuccessful, then the appealing party will either (a) receive a rebate to the extent that such costs are less than the deposit; or (b) pay an additional amount to the extent that such costs are more than the deposit

Section 6

In emergent circumstances where time will not permit a controversy to be heard by the Controversies Committee. The Executive Committee may hear such a controversy and render a decision thereon in an informal manner after all involved parties are provided with notice and an opportunity to present their positions before the Executive Committee.

Section 7

The President of the Association may refer any matter to the Attorney for the Association to conduct a hearing. In the event such referral is made, the Attorney shall conduct a hearing and preside as the hearing officer. The Attorney shall make findings of fact and make recommendations to the Executive Committee in writing. Objections to the Attorney's report shall be heard by the Executive Committee.

Section 8

Any member school which institutes an unsuccessful appeal before the Commissioner of Education and/or the courts challenging a rule or a decision of the Association, not involving the eligibility of student-athletes, either prior to or after having first exhausted the internal appeal procedures of the Association, will assume the full cost of such litigation, including costs and counsel fees incurred by the Association and member school(s).

CL 1: By way of illustration without limitations the type of actions for which litigation costs will be imposed. The full costs of litigation, including counsel fees, will be imposed upon a member school which does not prevail in challenging a decision of the NJSIAA. The following circumstances are provided by way of illustration and without limitation:

- 1. Any litigation which challenges, in whole or part, the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules or Regulations adopted by the general membership of the NJSIAA, or which was enacted by the Executive Committee by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote, and subject to amendment, addition or rescission by the general membership, pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the NJSIAA Constitution.*
- 2. Since participation in a particular sport, or in post-season tournament play conducted by the NJSIAA, is completely voluntary, any member school which unsuccessfully challenges either the rules and regulations for a particular sport, or the tournament rules, and/or the interpretation or implementation of such rules or regulations by responsible NJSIAA Committees, will be assessed the full costs of litigation.*
- 3. All challenges brought before the Commissioner or any Court, prior to exhaustion of internal processes provided by the NJSIAA, except where time does not permit the convening of appropriate NJSIAA Committees to determine the controversy, which is the*

subject of the appeal.

CL 2: The payment of any litigation costs or counsel fees shall be rendered in accordance with the following procedures:

- 1. At the conclusion of any unsuccessful litigation brought by a member school, as defined by CL 1 above, Counsel for the NJSIAA shall transmit to the NJSIAA Executive Director a Statement of Costs and Counsel Fees incurred in this litigation. Costs shall include all filing fees, reproduction and transcript costs, appearance fees and expenses of any witnesses at any hearing or other proceeding, as well as all postage and telephone costs incurred in this litigation, after a final decision is rendered by the NJSIAA Executive Committee.*
- 2. The Executive Director shall thereafter transmit the Statement of Costs and Counsel Fees to the unsuccessful litigating member school, for payment to be rendered within sixty (60) days, payable to the Association.*
- 3. In the event that a member school joins another member school or an athletic conference as an adverse party, in any unsuccessful litigation, as defined by Section A, then the unsuccessful litigating school will be liable to the other school or conference in the same manner and to the same extent as it is liable to the NJSIAA.*
- 4. Any member school which does not make full payment of the costs and fees within sixty days of the rendering of the Statement of Costs and Counsel Fees to that school, shall be deprived of all rights to participate in any post-season interscholastic championship contests conducted by the NJSIAA. The prohibition shall continue until and unless the full amount of Costs and Counsel Fees is paid to the NJSIAA, with interest at prevailing rates, assessed beginning sixty days after the rendering of such Costs and Counsel Fees. This prohibition will also extend to a member school which joined another member school or an athletic conference as an adverse party in such unsuccessful litigation.*

Section 9

Except as provided in Section 4 herein, no initial waiver requests or proceeding dealing with a specific school(s), staff or student(s) shall be conducted by any committee of the Association unless the Principal of the involved school(s) or his or her authorized representative is in attendance. A school shall be bound by any statements made by such representatives at committee proceedings. Requests for an appeal of an NJSIAA ruling by any party other than the school will be heard and interpreted as not having the support of the school when the Principal or his or her authorized representative is not present.

Section 10

In cases involving recruitment, jurisdiction over the member school shall lie with the Controversies Committee, and jurisdiction over the student-athlete shall lie with the Eligibility Appeals Committee.

Article XIV

AMENDMENTS

Section 1

These Bylaws and Rules and Regulations may be amended by a majority vote at the Annual Meeting based upon the total number of **ballots cast** at the Annual Meeting. Such amendment will become effective on July 1 following the Annual Meeting unless, by a separate two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote based upon the total number of **ballots cast** at the Annual Meeting, an earlier date is set.

Section 2

Any member school may initiate an amendment to the Bylaws, Rules or Regulations by following the

procedures set forth in Article XII, Sections 1 and 2 of the Constitution.

Section 3

Bylaws, Rules and Regulations may also be amended by the Executive Committee as provided in Art. V, Section 5 of the Constitution.

NJSIAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

STUDENT-ATHLETE GUIDELINES

Section 1 Team Status

A student-athlete is a properly enrolled student at a member school who has attained team status in a particular sport; i.e., sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity. Incoming freshmen are subject to all out-of-season regulations in all sports in spite of not having attained team status. Students who have completed the eighth grade are regarded as freshmen the day after their respective last day of school or June 30, whichever comes first. All team members must be listed on the eligibility report filed in a member school's office.

CL 1: The NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations apply to all freshman, sophomore, J.V. and varsity participants competing in interscholastic games and/or scrimmages; unless otherwise provided for in Junior High 9th grade Regulations. To further clarify the Junior High School Regulations intent it is recommended that 9th grade follow all references to the Junior High in the regulations.

CL 2: Team status will be defined as having been on the current/immediate preceding roster of a team.

Section 2 Out-of-Season Period

The out-of-season period shall be from the end of the season as defined in Program Regulations, Section 10 until the next official starting practice date for that sport, excluding the summer recess period. The summer recess period is from the Monday after the last scheduled Spring NJSIAA event until August 31st.

Penalty:

Any school proved guilty of violating the out of season coaching restrictions included within Student-Athlete Guidelines and Program Regulations shall be subject to the Penalties provided by Article X of the Bylaws, after a hearing by the Controversies Committee.

Out-of-Season practice is not permitted under the direction of an instructor or coach, or student leaders (i.e. captain's practices). This eliminates the use of any kind of equipment under any form of instruction. The object of this explanation is to make clear the point that there shall be absolutely no practice during the out-of-season period for a particular sport. Any subterfuge or "sharp practice" shall be construed as a violation of this rule.

If a coach leaves his/her position and subsequently has contact with a team-status student-athlete during the out-of-season period that coach cannot be rehired by the school until one year has elapsed from the date of the coach's last contact with the student-athlete.

CL 1:

a. Non-School Activities: During the out-of-season period, the NJSIAA does not restrict an individual's

choice to participate in a non-school activity or in an open-gym program in which the athlete has attained student-athlete status, i.e., all freshmen and those sophomores, juniors or seniors who have been on the roster of the J.V. or varsity teams during the current season.

- b. School-Related Organizations: During the out-of-season period, the school organizations such as Booster Clubs, Fathers' Club, Varsity Club and the like may not assist the student-athlete during the out-of-season period or provide individually issued equipment, uniforms, transportation or funds related to camp or clinic attendance when same is of a participatory nature.*

CL 2:

- a. Coaches/Student-Athletes: Coaches may not instruct their student-athletes during the out-of-season period, including Open-Gym Programs. For seniors, all rules apply through the last date of the NJSIAA Spring Championships, except for those seniors who have exhausted their eligibility and will not compete interscholastically in any future season/sport. When the same sport for Boys and Girls is conducted in different sports seasons, a student-athlete in that sport may not serve as manager of the team of the opposite sex and will be considered a violation of the out-of-season rule. Coaches may not exchange supervisory and/or coaching duties in their sport to circumvent the out-of-season rule.*
- b. Coaches Meetings: Coaches may hold non-instructional meetings for the purpose of distributing try-out schedules, medical forms, parent permission slips, etc. to returning lettermen and prospective team candidates. Strategy or techniques may not be discussed and neither may any physical activity take place.*
- c. Coaches may instruct and coach their sons and daughters during the out-of-season period*

CL 3: Fund-Raising – A school may conduct any school approved fund-raising campaign at any time of the year so long as the fund-raising activity is not designed to keep student-athletes active in their particular sport during the out-of-season period (exclusive of seniors who have exhausted their eligibility). Exception: One day fund-raising activities such as foul-shooting contests involving basketball players; marathons involving cross-country runners; swim-a-thons involving swimmers, and the like will not be considered violations when conducted after their respective seasons have been completed.

CL 4: Hiring Scenarios

Scenario A:

Coach A has been coaching basketball at school A for 10 years

Coach A decides to take some time off at the end of the season for personal reasons

Coach A would like to return to coach basketball at school A.

Ruling: Coach A must not have worked with kids in the basketball program for a calendar year, not including the summer recess period before Coach A can be rehired.

Scenario B:

Coach A is hired by school A to coach basketball

Coach A is hired to coach basketball at another school the following season

Ruling: Coach A will be considered a "NEW" hire at the new school and not subject to the out of season contact rule before the hire.

Scenario C:

*Coach A is coaching basketball at school A
Coach A decides to coach soccer at school A (same school)
Ruling: Coach A will be considered a “NEW” hire and not subject to the out of season contact rule, assuming Coach A has never coached soccer at school A (same school) previously.*

Section 3 Intramurals

Although the NJSIAA philosophy relative to intramurals is that these programs should provide an opportunity for students not on interscholastic teams, nevertheless student-athletes are permitted to participate in all intramural activities during the out-of-season period, except those in which they have attained team status.

CL 1: Coaches may supervise or serve as directors, including officiating of intramurals, recreational, club, camp, or open-gym programs when the school district’s student-athletes are not involved in their specific phase of the program during the out-of-season period.

Section 4 Open-Gym Programs

All open gym programs, including sports specific open gyms, are permitted as long as no members of the coaching staff are present.

Interscholastic competition of any kind is not permitted during open gyms.

Coaches may supervise open gym programs during the out-of-season period only when their student-athletes are not involved.

CL 1: The soccer coach may supervise a “basketball open gym” during the soccer out-of-season period, as long as there are no members of the soccer coach’s team participating.

CL 2: Coaches may not exchange supervisory and/or coaching duties in their sport to circumvent the out-of-season rule.

Section 5 Recreation and Club Programs

The NJSIAA does not have any jurisdiction over these programs conducted by outside organizations even though school facilities are used; however, school uniforms and other individually issued equipment may not be used by student-athletes. Coaches may not be involved when the school district’s student-athletes are involved in that specific phase of the program during the out-of-season period. Coaches may be spectators.

CL 1: Schools, school organizations, or school-related groups such as Booster Clubs may not assist the student-athlete’s participation or influence the sponsoring agency in non-school Recreation and Club Programs during the out-of-season period.

Section 6 Camps or Clinics

The NJSIAA does not restrict an individual’s choice to attend any participatory camps or clinics; however, schools, school organizations, or school-related groups such as Booster Clubs may not assist the student-athletes’ attendance at any camp or clinic during the out-of-season period; this includes providing uniforms, equipment, and funds related to the camp or clinic, including transportation; and coaches may not instruct their student-athletes. Coaches may be spectators.

CL 1: There are no limitations or restrictions on member schools or their student-athletes at any time when attendance at non-school camps or clinics is of a non-participatory nature, i.e., as an

observer rather than a participant.

CL 2: During the out-of-season period, the NJSIAA does not restrict an individual's choice to attend a participatory camp or clinic; however, schools, school organizations, or school-related groups such as Booster Clubs may not assist the student-athletes' attendance at any participatory camp or clinic, this includes providing uniforms, equipment, and funds related to the camp or clinic, including transportation. Coaches may not be involved in any way with their student-athletes. Coaches may attend a participatory camp, clinic or competition merely as spectators however they may not be involved in any way with their school's athletes, including being a clinician, when their school's student-athletes attend that camp or clinic regardless of the format or the separation of stations at a clinic.

CL 3: During the Summer Recess, a coach or student-athlete may not be sponsored or supported by a school or school-related group (example: Booster Club) when team-interscholastic or individual competition takes place as part of the activity in camps, clinics, recreation programs, independent play and tournaments.

CL 4: During the Summer Recess, interscholastic competition of any type at the site of either participant is prohibited.

Section 7 Faculty Games

Student-athletes of a particular sport may not engage in faculty or similar games in that same sport.

Section 8 Non-School/Non-Sanctioned Games

Student-athletes may compete in non-school, non-sanctioned games as follows:

- A. In-Season – Local Option
- B. Out-of-Season Period – A student-athlete may compete on a non-school team so long as individually issued school equipment, coaching, or other school services are not provided.

CL 1: The participant competes in Non-School/Non-Sanctioned events "unattached," i.e., not as a representative of the school and, therefore, schools, school organizations and school-related groups such as Booster Clubs, Parents Clubs or Varsity Clubs may not assist the student-athlete's participation in any way.

CL 2: The NJSIAA does not permit the funding, in whole or in part, of participation in Non-School/Non-Sanctioned events by a Board of Education. This applies to Non-School/Non-Sanctioned events, e.g., the Dapper Dan, McDonald, and Derby Basketball Clinics, the Golden West Track Classic, and National High School baseball, tennis, wrestling, or similar games/events.

CL 3: The NJSIAA cooperates fully with the USOC (United States Olympic Committee) in establishing the means by which the participants are selected to represent the United States; therefore, a member school, their student-athletes, and their coaches do not have any restrictions placed upon them In-Season, Out-of-Season or during the Summer Recess so long as the administrator (Principal) of the member school gives approval and the USOC verifies that the activity is a part of the USOC development program and filed with the NJSIAA.

Section 9 Eighth Grade Contact

High school coaches are permitted to have contact with student-athletes in grades eight and below as it pertains to camps, clinics and the like, as long as such contact does not involve high school students as it pertains to NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V, Section 4(I).

All camps, clinics and the like must be open to all. In no way may these activities be held by invitation only when they are involving high school coaches except for the summer period.

High school coaches are permitted to coach teams that involve student-athletes in grades eight and below as long as such coaching does not involve high school students as it pertains to NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V, Section 4(I).

Student-athletes in grades eight and below are not permitted to take part in activities that involve high school student-athletes as it pertains to NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V, Section 4(I), until they have graduated from the eighth grade.

Publicity by a school or anyone employed by the school regarding incoming students shall not focus on or promote athletics.

Eighth grade students that graduate before the summer period start date are not permitted to have contact with high school teams until the summer period start date.

Eighth grade students that graduate after the summer period open date are permitted to have contact with high school teams the day after their graduation from eighth grade.

Section 10 Sports Specific Strength and Conditioning Guidelines

Out-of-season sports specific strength and conditioning sessions conducted by school district approved coaches of that sport are permitted as long as the following apply:

1. The coach has completed the online NFHS Strength & Conditioning Course, unless already certified.
2. The strength and conditioning sessions are purely designed to improve athletes in the field of strength and conditioning.
3. No sports specific equipment permitted during these sessions.
4. No sports specific drills permitted during these sessions.
5. No sports specific walkthroughs or game planning permitted during these sessions.
6. The strength and conditioning sessions cannot be mandatory.

CL 1: The school's athletic policy regarding strength and conditioning (weight room) management will supersede the above guidelines except if the strength and conditioning sessions are sports specific with a member of the coaching staff.

CL 2: The NFHS course is only required one time, not annually.

PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Section 1 Awards

Awards are not restricted by the NJSIAA, if approved by the Board of Education, so long as they are symbolic awards, i.e., letters, sweaters, jackets, pins, trophies, other similar type awards, and rings or watches which are properly inscribed. All other awards must be approved by the local Board of Education and the NJSIAA. Student-athletes and prospective student-athletes must be cautioned when competing in any program including marathons and other running events in which cash or merchandise are the awards. By

refusing to accept the cash or merchandise the student absolves himself/herself from placing his/her eligibility in jeopardy.

CL: The participant's award or share thereof may not be assigned to another party or be accepted by another party but must be returned to the chairman of the event.

Section 2 Strenuous Sports

A player on an interscholastic athletic team shall participate in only one strenuous high school sport at a time during the regular high school sports season. A player may drop one high school sport to participate in another, but he/she may not return to a sport from which he/she withdrew.

The strenuous sports are: Baseball, Basketball, Unified Basketball, Cross-Country, Diving, Fencing, Field Hockey, Football, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Spring Track, Winter Track, Unified Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling.

CL 1: Bowling and Golf are not considered strenuous sports.

CL 2: Program Regulations, Section 2, Strenuous Sports, will mean a student concluding a season in one sport will not be able to participate in another sport regardless of the fact that the athlete would be able to meet the six (6) day practice rule.

Section 3 Physical Examinations

Physical examinations may be given prior to a Sports Season so that all players may be examined before the first day of practice. See State Board of Education – Rules and Regulations.

Section 4 Uniforms/Equipment

Uniforms may be issued prior to the beginning of a Sports Season, if stored by the school; however under no circumstances may uniforms be worn until the first official starting day of practice for that specific sport, except for shoes which may be issued and worn two weeks prior to such official starting date of practice. No individually issued equipment of a member school, except as provided herein, may be issued or used by a student during the out-of-season period.

Section 5 Sports Seasons Dates

Member schools must conduct their sports seasons within the following datelines according to practice provisions as outlined in Program Regulations, Section 6 to be eligible for NJSIAA Tournament play:

- Fall – Girls Tennis: August 11 to November 23, 2025
Football: August 11 to November 30, 2025
Gymnastics, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Soccer: August 18 to November 23, 2025

- Winter – Bowling, Ice Hockey, Swimming: November 17, 2025 to March 8, 2026
Boys Wrestling: December 1, 2025 to February 22, 2026
Girls Wrestling: December 1, 2025 to February 22, 2026
Basketball, Fencing, and Winter Track: December 1, 2025 to March 8, 2026

- Spring – Baseball, Golf, Lacrosse, Softball, Track, Boys Tennis and Boys Volleyball: March 9 to June 14, 2026

If, by way of exception provided in these Bylaws, permission is granted a school to extend its season in a particular sport, the provisions of this section are extended accordingly.

Fall – Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Football, Gymnastics, Soccer, Girls Tennis, Girls Volleyball

Winter – Basketball, Bowling, Fencing, Ice Hockey, Swimming, Winter Track, Wrestling

Spring – Baseball, Golf, Lacrosse, Softball, Boys Tennis, Spring Track, Boys Volleyball

The Executive Committee must approve conducting a specific program during a season other than the designated sports season for that sport.

Section 6 Start of Practice

For all strenuous sports (which excludes bowling and golf), student-athletes must take part in six (6) practices and have one (1) day of rest (6 days on and 1 day of rest rule) prior to participating in a scrimmage or regular season contest. The 6 days of practice and 1 day of rest do not have to be consecutive but must adhere to the 7-day time frame. This requirement applies to all three seasons.

Fall – Official practice for Girls Tennis and Football begins on August 11, 2025

Official practice for Cross Country, Field Hockey, Gymnastics, Soccer, and Girls Volleyball begins on August 18, 2025

Winter – Official practice for Bowling, Ice Hockey, Swimming begins on November 17, 2025

Official practice for Basketball, Fencing, Winter Track, and Wrestling begins on December 1, 2025

Spring – Official practice for Baseball, Golf, Lacrosse, Softball, Spring Track, Boys Tennis and Boys Volleyball begins on March 9, 2026.

Section 7 Practices/Scrimmages/Games/Meets

A student shall not be permitted to participate in a scrimmage or a game (interschool) in any strenuous sport until he/she has completed six days of practice in that sport (days of 24 hours, not sessions) and one day of rest. The six (6) days of practice and one (1) day of rest do not have to be consecutive but must adhere to the seven (7) day time frame. This requirement applies to all three seasons.

CL 1: Any workouts, including summer recess, prior to the first official day of practice for a particular sport cannot be counted to fulfill this requirement..

CL 2: The six (6) day practice rule begins on the first official day of practice for each sport excluding bowling and golf.

CL 3: The six (6) day practice rule will be waived for student-athletes who are members of a team participating in an NJSIAA competition after the start of the next season provided the athlete becomes a practicing member within three (3) practice days.

CL 4: A practice is defined as a session where a team is assembled and involved in physical activity to enhance the participant's physical condition. Practices of any kind for individuals, partial or entire teams, on days when the team is involved in interscholastic scrimmages or games-meets will

not count toward satisfying the six (6) day rule.

CL 5: It is a local option for schools to permit ineligible students to practice or compete in interscholastic scrimmages. An ineligible student may not participate in an interscholastic regular season contest or scrimmage. Such practices will count to satisfy the six (6) day practice rule. The above is applicable provided the school meets the medical examination and parental permission as required by the State Board of Education.

CL 6: Any lapses consisting of four (4) or more days, a restart of the six (6) day rule must occur.

CL 7: If a student was eligible to participate in a team practice after three (3) consecutive days off but missed the fourth day because of a situation beyond the student's control (i.e., the school closed for a holiday, Sunday, weather, etc.) a restart is not needed if the student practices the next available day.

CL 8: Only practices with the school team count toward the six (6) day practice rule. No national/club practices will count toward the six (6) day practice rule.

Interscholastic scrimmages are not limited to any number of games, meets, or matches. However, the rule regarding numbers of contests on consecutive days will be enforced.

No more than four (4) schools shall be permitted to take part in a joint interschool scrimmage.

CL 1: Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games.

CL 2: The host school may not invite any more than three (3) schools to participate in a scrimmage at its site(s).

No scrimmages shall be permitted after the "End of Season" as defined in Program Regulations, Section 10.

CL 1: While a school is competing in the State Tournament, it may schedule with teams entered in the tournament one (1) scrimmage during any week in which it has only one (1) bye and two (2) scrimmages during any week in which it has two (2) byes. These scrimmages will not count in the total number of allowable games.

Definitions: "Interscholastic scrimmages" are provided as an opportunity to experience controlled game conditions for both coaches and players. A scrimmage must provide for voluntary interruption of the "scrimmage game" for instructional purposes, must not have recorded scoring, results, spectator admission must be on a complimentary basis only, and the event cannot be conducted in such a manner as to advance a team or individual to another level of scrimmage competition.

CL 1: Whenever team(s) or individual(s) from two or more schools practice at the same site, it will be designated as a scrimmage unless some extraordinary circumstance has been approved by the NJSIAA

"Regular season games/contests" are those games, meets, or matches that are not statewide championship playoff contests. "Playoff games/contests" are those games, meets, or matches that comprise the Statewide Championship Tournament. Regular season games include conference games, non-conference games, and games played at tournaments and invitationals. Regular season games count toward the total number of

games in which a school can participate during a sports season.

Section 8 Opening Dates

For all sports, with the exception of football, schools may schedule scrimmages and regular season contests once the 6-days of practice/1-day of rest rule has been satisfied. Once a regular season contest has been played and reported, then no future contest may be considered a scrimmage – all contests will count towards the maximum number of competitions.

The regular season opening dates for football are as follows:

- Week 0 – August 28, 2025*
- Week 1 – September 4, 2025

*This is applicable to all program levels – varsity and non-varsity competition is not allowable before August 28, 2025.

Section 9 Contest Rules

All contests involving member schools must be played according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). This applies to all sports for which rules are formulated by that Association, with the following exceptions:

Bowling	–	US Bowling Congress
Fencing	–	United States Fencing Association
Golf	–	USGA
Tennis	–	USTA

Rules indicated will govern all sports unless modified by NJSIAA.

Section 10 End of Season

All teams may participate in interscholastic contests up to the final championship in their respective sports, with the exception of wrestling. Equipment should be stored and practice terminated for the out-of-season period upon completion of the schedule. Individual competition shall terminate with the end of said competition.

Section 11 Summer Recess

The summer period begins the Monday after the NJSIAA spring sports competition end date. The spring season competition end date is published in the spring sports quick chart found on the NJSIAA website. The summer period beginning date will not change because of postponements to the last NJSIAA spring events. The last day of the summer period is August 31.

There are no NJSIAA-imposed restrictions during the summer period, with the exception that interscholastic competition/scrimmages are not permitted during the summer period. Scrimmages consistent with the early season opening or regular season opening provisions are permitted.

CL 1: School Districts are not permitted to conduct interscholastic competition during the summer period. Schools Districts are permitted to host competition during the summer period, if the competition is organized and sponsored by a third party not connected to the school district.

CL 2: Football 7 on 7's is not considered interscholastic competition. Schools are urged to be mindful of their liability when hosting students from other districts during the summer period.

CL 3: Non-School Teams: A member of a high school’s coaching staff may not be involved in any way with a non-school team on which there are student-athletes who participated on the freshman, junior varsity, or varsity level of the coach’s high school team(s) in that sport until the start of the summer period.

Section 12 Alumni Games

Alumni games count as part of the schedule in all sports, but they may not be included when submitting records for tournament consideration.

Section 13 Tournament Entry

Member schools are to submit an online entry form via the NJSIAA website (www.njsiaa.org) for state tournament competition. Tournament regulations will be posted no earlier than four weeks before the tournament date. NO entries submitted after the tournament entry deadline will be accepted unless accompanied by a late fee established by the NJSIAA.

Section 14 Video Taping and Filming

Electronic Communication equipment, including but not limited to computer, film television and video tape is permissible according to the NFHS rules for the sport in question. Videotaping of scrimmages is a local option. No video or audio recording may be used to review or challenge the decision of a sports official, except that NJSIAA may use video and audio recordings to (1) identify and determine violations of its sportsmanship policy, (2) identify and determine players who left the bench area, and (3) ensure that disqualifications are correctly identified.

Section 15 Maximum Games

For consistency, the maximum number of games are the same for those sports that are of the same physical nature and/or have similar physical requirements. In order to provide equity across all sports and all schools, a maximum number of games will be established for those sports that have not had such limitations.

The maximum number of games does not include participation in one county or league/conference-based tournament, and the NJSIAA state tournament. A county or league/conference-based tournament is defined as a single elimination tournament not to exceed 32 teams, limited to a maximum of five games. Teams may still participate in both a county and a league/ conference tournament, but one of these tournaments will count toward the maximum number of games.

CL 1: In the event that a member school does not have a county or league/conference-based tournament available in a particular sport, the member school may choose one tournament in which the maximum number of games will not count. The tournament must be organized by a member school(s) and the competing schools in the tournament must all be NJSIAA member schools. This option is not available for schools that are eligible to compete in a county or league/conference-based tournament in a particular sport but choose not to.

The below table summarizes the new maximum number of games by sport:

Sport	No. of Games	Sport	No. of Games
Baseball	24	Lacrosse	18
Basketball	24	Soccer	18
Cross Country	14	Softball	24
Fencing	16	Swimming	16
Field Hockey	18	Tennis	24
Football	14	Track & Field – Spring	14

Gymnastics	14	Track & Field – Winter	14
Ice Hockey	22	Volleyball	24
Bowling and Golf, our non-strenuous sports, will not have maximum number of games per season.			

To allow leagues, conferences, and schools maximum flexibility to schedule based on their needs and circumstances, there will be no weekly maximum number of games for any sport. However, those sports that currently prohibit competition on three consecutive days will continue to prohibit such activity. The sports that currently prohibit competition on three consecutive days are: Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, and Swimming.

The maximum number of games does not include participation in individual-based competition for sports such as cross country, swimming, tennis, etc. Individual-based competition is determined by whether a team score is calculated. For instance, if a team score is calculated at an individual-based event, regardless of the number of participants from the team, then this competition will count towards the maximum number of games. If a team score is not calculated, then the event will not count towards the maximum number of games.

In order to maximize competition opportunities, schools will be permitted to schedule regular season events during the NJSIAA post-season in every sport but may not exceed the total maximum number of games listed above. The only exception to this rule will be for wrestling, team wrestling matches will continue to be prohibited once the NJSIAA District Tournament starts. NJSIAA post-season tournament competition will take priority over regular season games in every sport when assigning officials. No competition will be permitted beyond the last scheduled post-season championship event in each sport, the last post-season championship event represents the end of that sport’s regular season.

A waiver of the maximum game limitation is granted in all sports, except football, only when one additional game is needed to decide a county, conference or tournament championship.

Section 16 Withdrawal/NJSIAA Tournaments

Any member school and/or student-athlete withdrawing from competition after having officially entered an NJSIAA tournament in any sport will be disqualified from all remaining NJSIAA tournament competition in that sport in that season and may be barred from participating in NJSIAA tournament competition in that sport during the next school year unless truly extraordinary circumstances were present.

Section 17 Withdrawal/Infectious Diseases

School administrators should rely solely upon the advice of the school’s medical inspector in determining the action to withdraw a team from competition when a member is diagnosed as having an infectious disease.

Section 18 60% State Competition Rule

All NJSIAA tournament team entry forms must reflect competition to no less than 60% with New Jersey schools. If a team does not meet the criteria by the cut-off date, with the exception of football which will be based on a 10-game schedule throughout the season, it will forfeit its entry into the NJSIAA tournament.

Section 19 Specific Sports Regulations Penalties

To promote fairness in competition and the health and safety of student-athletes, no NJSIAA member school will be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Championship Tournament if it has violated the Specific Sports Regulations for the sport, involving the start of practice, the start and ending of the sport season and the maximum contests permitted during the regular season. The application of this standard is non-appealable.

SPECIFIC SPORT REGULATIONS

Notes:

1. A week is defined as from 12:01 A.M. Sunday to Saturday midnight.
2. A regularly scheduled game is one which has been contracted by mutual consent of the participating schools and approved by their respective Boards of Education and by the schools' Principals.
3. Member schools may schedule games or scrimmages with any school that is academically accredited by its regional accrediting agency and having athletic eligibility standards similar to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. Member schools may schedule regular season games or scrimmages with non-member schools, or with member schools of the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools; however, in such case, any waiver of the NJSIAA eligibility rules must be agreed upon and set forth in the contract. Under this section, competition is limited to teams (or individuals) whose participants are in the first year of post-high school matriculation. Waiver of NJSIAA eligibility rules will not be granted for sanctioned tournaments.

CL 1: Member schools may not compete with "club" teams. Competition is not permitted with teams composed of post-high school students (private schools, junior colleges, colleges) whose participants are beyond the first year of post-high matriculation or are beyond the first year since graduating from high school. All Independent Schools holding dual membership (NJSIAA and NJISAA) must adhere to all regulations provided for by the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations and they may not be waived.

CL 2: A school is permitted to sponsor only one team at the varsity level. A and B teams at the varsity level are not permitted in any sports.

CL 3: All NJSIAA member school athletic teams are bound by NJSIAA rules. No member school may have any team that operates outside of NJSIAA's jurisdiction in any NJSIAA sanctioned sport.

CL 4: No member school may engage in athletic competition, scrimmage and/or practice with an out-of-state school which is not a member in good standing of its respective state high school athletic association or has not been approved by the respective association as an affiliate.

4. Disqualification

- a. Any student-athlete or coach disqualified before, during or after an interscholastic event for unsportsmanlike and flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next two (2) regularly scheduled games/meets, with the exception of football which will carry a one (1) game disqualification, at that level of competition and all other game(s)/meet(s) in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties which the NJSIAA or a league/conference may assess.

CL 1: Once a coach/player has been disqualified, NO appeals will be honored from the player, coach, official or any other party. Disqualification is a judgement call and officials must be certain the act warrants disqualification. All complaints against an official must be directed to the official's Chapter Secretary and the NJSIAA.

CL 2: Any student disqualified during a scrimmage will remain ineligible until the second regular season

contest in football or the third regular season contest in all other sports. Scrimmage DQs do not count toward the team disqualification maximum but do count toward an individual's disqualification maximum for participation in the NJSIAA tournament.

CL 3: The National Federation Rules do not permit a wrestler to continue to participate in a tournament if there is a flagrant disqualification. The NJSIAA rule requires a two-match sit-out. Even though the wrestler is not permitted to wrestle in the remainder of that tournament, said wrestler may fulfill the two-match disqualification, provided his team continues to wrestle in scheduled events.

CL 4: A second disqualification for an individual in any game/meet/match supersedes NFHS rules in this regard.

CL 5: Member schools are responsible for upholding the disqualification rule. It is the responsibility of the coach to report any disqualification (student-athlete or coach) to the athletic director. It is the responsibility of the athletic director to report the disqualification to NJSIAA staff if a disqualification notice is not received from the notification system by noon the next day. This includes disqualifications that may occur during competition against non-NJSIAA member schools, irrespective of where the competition occurs.

CL 6: The Executive Director has the authority to (1) issue disqualifications for violations of the NJSIAA sportsmanship policy, (2) issue disqualifications to players who leave the bench area during an altercation, and (3) correct a reporting error in a previously submitted disqualification report. These actions may be taken after an event has been completed.

- b. A disqualified player or coach may not be present at any contest in that sport during the period of disqualification. Definition of not being present at the site means the disqualified player or coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the bus, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet. In addition, a disqualified coach may not engage in any coaching or communication whatsoever with anyone at the contest.
 1. In team sports any player/coach in violation of this provision will be cause for forfeiture of those games during the period of disqualification.
 2. In individual sports the event or events in which the player previously participated while having been disqualified will be forfeited. The team will lose the highest points awarded in each event noted herein.
- c. Should a coach/player be disqualified from the final game/meet of the season, said disqualification will carry over to the next year in that sport. In the case of the student-athlete, the same degree of penalty shall apply if said athlete retains eligibility in that sport.
- d. Any player/coach disqualified a second time in single or multiple sports will have the penalty doubled (i.e., in football – disqualified for two (2) games; all other sports – four (4) games). Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.
- e. Any player with two or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of an NJSIAA tournament, will be ineligible to compete in said tournament.
- f. Any varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the team's participation in an NJSIAA tournament will not be permitted to participate in same.

Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached prior to the start of the tournament for the team.

- g. Single/multiple sports – on the third offense; players disqualified will be suspended indefinitely, and must apply, in writing, to the NJSIAA through the office of their Principal for reinstatement. Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.
- h. Any coach disqualified a second time within 365 days from the date of the first disqualification will be required to appear before the Controversies Committee with the Principal and the Athletic Director.
- i. Any coach who is disqualified and/or has three or more players on a team disqualified during the course of the preceding school year must complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior course. NJSIAA will provide the school with a link to the NFHS online course, and the course completion certificate is due to NJSIAA within sixty (60) days of the initial NJSIAA notification of the disqualification requirement.
- j. Any player that leaves the bench area during an altercation, regardless of whether the player engages in the altercation, shall be disqualified, and will be subject to the disqualification penalty (automatically disqualified from the next two contests.) Only coaches can leave the bench area with the purpose of restraining players and stopping the altercation

CL 1: Coaches/players who do not fulfill their penalty in a sport at their present school will be disqualified for the same length of time in their subsequent coaching assignment/sport participation at another school.

CL 2: Seniors who are disqualified from their last game or next to last game will serve the penalty in a subsequent sports season according to the penalty provision of that subsequent sport. When seniors are disqualified from their last game of their high school careers, and are unable to fulfill the penalty, member schools are required to take proper administrative action to discipline the offending student.

CL 3: Seniors who quit a sport and have not fulfilled their penalty in that sport, must serve it in the new sport before beginning playing in the new sport.

CL 4: Student-athletes, grades 9-11, who are disqualified from their last game or next to last game will serve the penalty in that sport in the subsequent school year. If the student-athlete does not participate in that sport in the subsequent school year, the penalty will carry over to the next sports season in which the student participates, according to the penalty provision of that subsequent sport. If the student-athlete is unable to fulfill the penalty, member schools are required to take proper administrative action to discipline the student.

Baseball

Section 1 Rules National Federation shall govern all NJSIAA games

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. From the start of the regular season until the end of the State Tournament, regular season interschool scrimmages count toward the maximum number of games allowed (24)

Section 7 Games Per Week: N/A

Section 8 Maximum Games Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Basketball

Section 1 Rules National Federation edition of the Basketball Rules of the United States and Canada shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. However, a player may not scrimmage on three (3) consecutive days. From the start of the regular season until the end of the State Tournament, regular season interschool scrimmages count toward the maximum number of games allowed (24)

Section 7 Games Per Week Games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days.

Section 8 Maximum Games Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Section 9 Quarters per Day A basketball player shall play no more than five (5) quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity competition.

CL: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Bowling

Section 1 Rules US Bowling Congress Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Sections 6-15 N/A

Section 16 Championship Eligibility A student competing on an interscholastic bowling team must participate as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total matches to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament.

CL 1: Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play in at least 50% of the school's matches, up to and including the cut-off date, less those matches in which the student was not able to compete due to the Extraordinary Circumstance. Extraordinary Circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

Fencing

Section 1 Rules NCAA Rules shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Sections 6-15 N/A

Section 16 Championship Eligibility A student competing on an interscholastic fencing team must participate as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total matches to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament.

CL 1: Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play in at least 50% of the school's matches, up to and including the cut-off date, less those matches in which the student was not able to compete due to the Extraordinary Circumstance. Extraordinary Circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

Field Hockey

Section 1 Rules National Federation Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. However, a player may not scrimmage on three (3) consecutive days. From the start of the regular season until the end of the State Tournament, regular season interschool scrimmages count toward the maximum number of games allowed (18).

Section 7 Games Per Week Games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days.

Section 8 Maximum Games Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Section 9 Quarters Per Day A field hockey player shall not play in more than six quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. NOTE: Overtime periods are a continuation of the 4th quarter.

CL: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Football

Section 1 Rules National Federation Football Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school. For football, the Week 1 Competition Start Date will be used as the start date for counting the number of days a student is penalized. Students who have a 30-day penalty become eligible on week 5 unless they participate in four (4) games prior to week 4 (i.e., weeks 0, 1, 2 and 3). Students who have a 22-day penalty become eligible on week 4 unless they participate in three (3) games prior to week 3 (i.e., weeks 0, 1 and 2).

Section 6 Scrimmages Football scrimmages will be permitted twice per week with a maximum of three (3) full contact scrimmages prior to the start of the regular season. From the start of the regular season until the end of the State Tournament, regular season interschool scrimmages count toward the maximum number of games allowed (14).

Section 7 Games Per Nine-Days, Quarters Per Consecutive Days Rule A team may not play more than two football games in a period of nine days. A player may not participate in more than five (5) quarters on consecutive days. This includes freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition.

Section 8 Maximum Games Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Section 9 Quarters per Day N/A

Section 10 Postponed/Suspended Games Member schools must play a postponed game no later than Tuesday of the following week (Monday if either team is scheduled to play on the following Friday.) This rule also applies to suspended games which are to be continued according to Conference or NJSIAA procedures.

Section 11 Play-off Games Member schools may, with Executive Committee approval, play play-off games to break a tie for league or conference championships so long as the maximum number of games either school plays during that season does not exceed ten games, including the play-offs. Such play-off must be played no later than ten (10) days after Thanksgiving. This provision is not applicable to the NJSIAA Football Play-off resolution.

Section 12 Tie-Breaking Procedure During the regular season member schools must use the 25 yd. line in the Football Overtime Tie-Breaking Procedure when a scheduled varsity game ends in a tie. If a tie remains after each team has played three (3) series, the results will remain a tie. The procedure may be used at the sub-varsity level when approved by the schools/conference prior to the game.

Golf

Section 1 Rules The United States Golf Association Rules shall govern all NJSIAA matches. All matches must play summer rules and enforce stroke and distance for all lost balls for all matches. Coaches are encouraged to teach your players the proper use of a provisional ball in order to keep play moving.

Note 1: Concerning playing the ball down – Under extreme course conditions Coaches and/or Club Pros may make the recommendation to lift clean and place one club length, no closer to the hole. This recommendation may not be used to speed up the pace of play. This modification must be noted on the entry form each match. See Appendix 1, USGA Rules of Golf.

Note 2: In the extreme case a host course will not let a team use USGA Rule 27 concerning stroke and distance for lost balls and balls hit out of bounds, teams are required to do the following:

1. Out of bounds – Players must add a 2 stroke penalty and drop within two club lengths from the point the ball crossed the boundary (white) stakes lining the course. Lost ball – 2 stroke penalty – Drop a ball the nearest point where the ball was thought to have been lost.

This provision is to be used on a course by course basis only and is not to be adopted by a conference as a whole.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Sections 6 – 12 N/A

Section 13 Team A team shall consist of a minimum of four (4) players and a maximum of six (6) players.

Section 14 Match An interscholastic match shall consist of nine (9) holes; if a match is not completed, the winner will be based upon those holes completed by all players of the teams. If less than five (5) holes have been completed by the teams, the match will be replayed.

CL: The girls will use the same tee as the boys in State, Sectional, and Championship Tournaments. During the regular season, girls will use the next forward tee which includes all conference, county, etc. tournaments that take place during the regular season.

Section 15 Scoring

Type of play – Medal (stroke) Play

The winner of the match will be the team with the lowest total strokes for any 4 out of six players. In case of a tie each team will add their 5th lowest score to the team total, if still a tie, the 6th lowest score will be added to the team total. If both teams are tied after using 6 members, the team with the low medalist is the winner. If the low medalist is a tie, then the match is a tie.

Note: All conferences MUST play medal play to decide their teams' wins and losses.

Gymnastics

Section 1 Rules National Federation Girls Gymnastics Rules unless modified shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages N/A

Section 7 Meets Per Week Meets may not be held on three (3) consecutive days.

Section 8 Maximum Meets Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Section 9 Meets Per Day A competitor shall not compete in more than one (1) meet during the same calendar day.

CL: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Section 10 Postponed Meets Postponed meets may be worked into the scheduling, but under no circumstances shall meets be held on three (3) consecutive days.

Sections 11-15 N/A

Section 16 Championship Eligibility A student competing on an interscholastic gymnastics team must participate as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total meets to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament.

CL 1: Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play in at least 50% of the school's meets, up to and including the cut-off date, less those meets in which the student was not able to compete due to the Extraordinary Circumstance. Extraordinary Circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

Ice Hockey

Section 1 Rules National Federation Ice Hockey Rules, with the following exceptions, shall govern all NJSIAA games.

1. The game shall consist of three periods of 15 minutes. An exception may be allowed when participating out of state.
2. On a disqualification penalty, the player shall be put in the custody of the coach on the bench.
3. Overtime, regular season. Teams will play one 5-minute overtime period during the regular season. Teams will receive a 2-minute rest period at the conclusion of the third period. During the overtime period, the first goal scored will end the game. If the game is still tied upon completion of the 5-minute overtime period, then the game will end in a tie – no additional overtime periods will be played.
4. Overtime, playoffs. During the playoffs, teams will play overtime as set forth in the tournament regulations.
5. There shall be no limit to non-playing personnel on the bench, but the coach is responsible and must suffer the penalty if any bench disturbance occurs.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. However, a player may not scrimmage on three (3) consecutive days. From the start of the regular season until the end of the State Tournament, regular season interschool scrimmages count toward the maximum number of games allowed (22).

Section 7 Games Per Week Games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days.

Section 8 Maximum Games. Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Section 9 Periods Per Day An ice hockey player shall play in no more than three (3) periods during the same calendar day. This would include any combination of sub-varsity and varsity competition. NOTE: Overtime periods are a continuation of the third period.

CL: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Section 10-15 N/A

Section 16 Championship Eligibility. A student competing on an interscholastic ice hockey team must play as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total games to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament.

CL: Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play in at least 50% of the school's games, up to and including the cut-off date, less those games in which the student was not able to compete due to the Extraordinary Circumstance. Extraordinary Circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

Boys Lacrosse

Section 1 Rules National Federation Boys Lacrosse Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. However, a player may not scrimmage on three (3) consecutive days. From the start of the regular season until the end of the State Tournament, regular season interschool scrimmages count toward the maximum number of games allowed (18).

Section 7 Games Per Week Games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days.

Section 8 Maximum Games Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Section 9 Quarters Per Day A player shall play in no more than six (6) quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity competition.

CL: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Girls Lacrosse

Section 1 Rules National Federation Girls Lacrosse Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. However, a player may not scrimmage on three (3) consecutive days. From the start of the regular season until the end of the State Tournament, regular season interschool scrimmages count toward the maximum number of games allowed (18).

Section 7 Games Per Week Games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days.

Section 8 Maximum Games Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Section 9 Quarters Per Day

A player shall play in no more than six (6) quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity competition.

CL: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Soccer

Section 1 Rules National Federation Soccer Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. However, a player may not scrimmage on three (3) consecutive days. From the start of the regular season until the end of the State Tournament, regular season interschool scrimmages count toward the maximum number of games allowed (18).

Section 7 Games Per Week Games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days.

Section 8 Maximum Games Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Section 9 Halves Per Day A soccer player shall play in no more than three (3) halves during the same

calendar day, with a maximum of nine (9) halves per week. If a school elects to play a four (4) game week, an individual may not exceed twelve (12) halves in that four-game week. This would include any combination of freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. NOTE: Overtime periods are a continuation of the second half.

CL: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Section 10-15 N/A

Section 16 Championship Eligibility A student competing on an interscholastic soccer team must play as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total games to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament.

CL: Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play in at least 50% of the school's games, up to and including the cut-off date, less those games in which the student was not able to compete due to the Extraordinary Circumstance. Extraordinary Circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

Softball

Section 1 Rules National Federation Softball Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. However, a player may not scrimmage on three (3) consecutive days. From the start of the regular season until the end of the State Tournament, regular season interschool scrimmages count toward the maximum number of games allowed (24).

Section 7 N/A

Section 8 Maximum Games Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Swimming

Section 1 Rules National Federation Swimming Rules shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 N/A

Section 7 Meets Per Week Meets may not be conducted on three (3) consecutive days.

Section 8 Maximum Meets Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

CL 1: Schools with a declared separate boys team and girls team may not swim as a combined team unless swimming against a declared combined team. Declared combined teams may not swim as a separate boys team or a separate girls team in interscholastic meets.

CL 2: Diving will not be included as an event during the regular season, the NJSIAA Power Points championship or in the NISCA Power Points for qualification for the team championship competition. Conferences may include Diving in conference meets. Schools may include Diving in non-conference meets by written agreement of the competing schools.

Sections 9-15 N/A

Section 16 Championship Eligibility A student competing on an interscholastic swimming team must swim as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total meets to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament.

CL 1: Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play in at least 50% of the school's games, up to and including the cut-off date, less those games in which the student was not able to compete due to the Extraordinary Circumstance. Extraordinary Circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

CL 2: Late entries will not be accepted as outlined in Program Regulations, Section 13.

CL 3: Once schools declare their swim teams as either separate boys, separate girls or combined/co-ed, those declared teams will remain as such during the state tournament classification process. As in regular season competition, combined/co-ed teams will be grouped with boys teams and not grouped with girls teams to determine classification group size. Boys teams and combined/co-ed teams will be classified together in their A, B, and C groups, according to the Northing System. Girls teams will be classified separately (without including combined/co-ed teams) in their A, B, and C Groups according to the Northing System.

Section 17 Officials

A minimum of three (3) NJSIAA registered officials is required for all championship swimming meets. Four (4) officials will be assigned to the sectional state semifinals and finals.

A minimum of two (2) NJSIAA registered officials shall be used for all other varsity meets.

Girls Tennis (Fall), Boys Tennis (Spring)

Section 1 Rules United States Tennis Association Rules shall govern all NJSIAA matches.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Officials If officials are used for regular season varsity matches they must be registered with the NJSIAA.

Section 7 N/A

Section 8 Maximum Contests Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Sections 9-12 N/A

Section 13 Contest An interscholastic contest shall consist of five matches: a First Singles match, a Second Singles match, a Third Singles match, a First Doubles match, and a Second Doubles match. The team winning the majority of the five matches shall be the winner of the contest. A school may not schedule or participate in more than one full contest at the end of a regular school day. Prior unfinished contest make-ups will be allowed.

Section 14 Match A match shall consist of the best of three sets. The player(s) winning two sets shall be the winner of the match.

1. Participation: No player shall play twice, i.e., a team shall consist of at least seven (7) players.
2. Line-up: Each coach shall establish his/her lineup in writing before the match begins. The coach is obligated to present his/her strongest lineup in proper order at the time and place the match is played. This means that the best player scheduled to play at this time must play 1st Singles, the next best 2nd Singles, and the third best 3rd Singles. From the remaining members of the squad, two doubles teams are to be selected with the stronger doubles combination playing 1st Doubles and the weaker playing 2nd Doubles.
3. Substitution: Substitutions will be permitted after the outcome of the meet has been decided; however, Article 1 shall still apply.
4. Interrupted Play: The continuation of interrupted play shall begin at the exact point it was discontinued with regard to score, the person serving, and the side of the court each player was on.
5. Forfeit: In case of injury to a player, the match shall be forfeited if the player cannot continue after fifteen (15) accumulative minutes.
6. Between Sets: Play shall be continuous from the first service to the completion of the match; except that a three (3) minute rest period shall be permitted between the first and second sets, and a ten (10) minute rest period shall be permitted between the second and third sets.
7. Coaches shall teach and demonstrate the ethics of tennis.

8. Tie-Breaker – Sets which reach a 6-6 score shall be decided by playing a 12 point tie-breaker.
9. All third sets will use a 10-point tiebreaker during both the regular season and state tournament, with the exception of the singles and doubles tournament state finals.

Sections 15 N/A

Section 16 Championship Eligibility A student competing on an interscholastic tennis team must participate as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total matches to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament.

CL 1: Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play in at least 50% of the school's games, up to and including the cut-off date, less those games in which the student was not able to compete due to the Extraordinary Circumstance. Extraordinary Circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

Sections 17 N/A

Section 18 Equipment Only approved USTA tennis balls shall be used, and new tennis balls must be provided for each match.

Cross Country

Section 1 Rules National Federation Track and Field Rules, unless herein modified, shall govern all NJSIAA cross-country, winter track and spring track meets.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season As provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 N/A

Section 7 Meets Per Week During the season, team members who compete in outside meets with the approval of the school remain eligible for NJSIAA competition. Under no circumstances may a student compete on three (3) consecutive days even when a postponed meet is worked into the schedule. (National Federation approved meets are exceptions to this rule.)

Section 8 Maximum Meets Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Section 9 Meets Per Day A competitor shall not compete in more than one meet during the same calendar day.

CL: When there are multiple divisions in a meet on the same day at the same site, e.g., freshman,

junior varsity, and/or varsity divisions, an athlete may compete in each of the divisions if the contestant does not violate National Federation Participation Rule, which limits the number of events in which a contestant may compete in a given meet, provided that the contestant does not compete more than once in the same event on that date.

CL: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Section 10-16 N/A

Section 17 Officials It shall be required that at least three (3) NJSIAA registered track officials be used to officiate in any County, Conference, Invitational, Championship or NJSIAA meets involving four or more teams. Whenever possible, all officials in these meets should be registered.

In all dual and triangular Cross-Country Meets there shall be at least one (1) NJSIAA registered track official designated as the Starter-Referee.

In all dual and triangular Winter Track and Spring Track Meets there shall be at least two (2) NJSIAA registered track officials; one official to supervise Running Events and designated Meet Referee and/or Starter and/or Head Finish Judge; the other to supervise the Field Events and designated Head Field Judge.

Section 18 Jewelry Effective September 1, 2018, the NJSIAA will no longer adhere to the NFHS Rules and Regulations regarding watches, specifically NFHS Rule 4-6-5 Note #2. Watches are permitted at NJSIAA regular season and post-season events. However, watches cannot be used for communication purposes.

Section 19 Standard Distances/Cross Country Unless Meet Directors for Open, Conference, and Championship meets have received NJSIAA approval to conduct meets at other distances, the standard distance shall be:

Freshman: 3500 meters

Junior Varsity or Novice: 5000 meters

Varsity: 5000 meters

Winter Track:

Section 1 Rules National Federation Track and Field Rules, unless herein modified, shall govern all NJSIAA cross-country, winter track and spring track meets.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season As provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Sections 6 through 18 Same as Cross Country

Section 19 N/A

Section 20 Number of Contestants

Dual Meet Competition: Each team shall be entitled to five (5) entries per event. NOTE: This will also apply to Spring Track.

Triangular Competition: Each team shall be entitled to four (4) entries per event.

Open, Conference and Championship Meets: Entries determined by sanctioning body or Meet Director.

Section 21 Standard Events – Boys As follows: 55 m, 55 m high hurdles (39 inch) 400 m, 800 m, 1600 m, 3200 m, 1600 m Relay, Shot Put, High Jump, and Pole Vault. Any variations must be by mutual consent and listed in the contract, or points shall be forfeited for departure from this rule. Open, Conference, and Championship meets must receive NJSIAA approval for departure from this rule.

Section 22 Standard Events – Girls As follows: 55 m, 55 m hurdles (33 inch), 400 m, 800 m, 1600 m, 3200 m, 1600 m Relay, Shot Put, High Jump and Pole Vault. Any variations must be by mutual consent and listed in the contract, or points shall be forfeited for departure from this rule. Open, Conference, and Championship meets must receive NJSIAA approval for departure from this rule.

Spring Track:

Section 1 Rules National Federation Track and Field Rules, unless herein modified, shall govern all NJSIAA cross-country, winter track and spring track meets.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season As provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student’s first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Sections 6 through 20 Same as Winter Track.

Section 21 Standard Events

Boys: As follows: 100 m, 200 m, 400 m, 800 m, 1600 m, 3200 m, 110 m high hurdles (39 inch), 400 m intermediate hurdles (36 inch), 1600 m Relay, Pole Vault, High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Discus, Shot Put, and Javelin (rubber tipped). Any variations must be by mutual consent and listed in the contract, or points shall be forfeited for departure from this rule. Open, Conference and Championship meets must receive NJSIAA approval for departure from this rule.

Attention: 400 m intermediate hurdles (36 inch) Hurdle Spacing

No. of Hurdles	Hurdle Height	Starting Line to First Hurdle	Between Hurdles	Last Hurdle to Finish Line
10	36”	45 m	35 m	40 m

Girls: As follows: 100 m, 200 m, 400 m, 400 m Relay (optional), 800 m, 1600 m, 3200 m, 100 m hurdles (33 inch), 400 m hurdles (30 inch), 1600 m Relay, High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Pole Vault, Discus, Shot Put, and Javelin (rubber tipped). Any variations must be by mutual consent and listed in the contract or points shall be forfeited for departure from this rule. Open, Conference, and Championship meets must receive NJSIAA approval for departure from this rule. State Championships will contest and score the triple

jump and pole vault.

Boys and Girls State Championships will contest and score the triple jump, pole vault and 3200m Relay.

Section 22 Order of Events

Boys: The order of events, unless agreed upon and listed in the contract, shall be: 110 m high hurdles (39 inch), 100 m, 1600 m, 400 m, 400 m intermediate hurdles (36 inch), 800 m, 200 m, 3200 m, 1600 m Relay. If 400 m Relay or 3200 m Relay, is included, the contract must also indicate the placement in the order of events.

Girls: The order of events, unless agreed upon and listed in the contract, shall be: 100 m hurdles (33 inch), 100 m, 1600 m, 400 m, 400 m hurdles (30 inch), 800 m, 200 m, 3200 m, 1600 m Relay. If 400 m Relay or 3200 m Relay, is included, the contract must also indicate the placement in the order of events.

Girls Volleyball (Fall), Boys Volleyball (Spring)

Section 1 Rules National Federation Volleyball Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. From the start of the regular season until the end of the State Tournament, regular season interschool scrimmages count toward the maximum number of matches allowed (24).

Section 7 N/A

Section 8 Maximum Matches Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 15.

Sections 9-13 N/A

Section 14 Match

1. Match format, regular season. During the regular season, teams will be allowed to play either a best of 5-match or best of 3-match format.

CL: Teams must mutually agree to play a best of 5-match format prior to scheduling the match.

2. Match format, regular season tournaments (single or multiple days). Tournaments (single or multiple days) may be modified as per Note 2 of Rule 1-2. Games may be modified requiring fewer points to win but not raised to require more points to win.

3. Match format, state tournament. During the state tournament, teams will play a best of 5-match format.

Boys Wrestling

Section 1 Rules National Federation Wrestling Rules, unless modified herein, shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

CL 1: No varsity meets, regular season or tournament, may be scheduled during or after the week of the District Tournament without NJSIAA approval unless said meet had been scheduled during the last week of the regular season and postponed.

CL 2: Junior varsity and/or freshman wrestlers may not compete in matches or tournaments during the weeks of the District and Region tournaments.

CL 3: No junior varsity or freshman matches or tournaments shall be permitted after the District tournament.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. Interschool scrimmages during the regular season count toward the maximum number of matches allowed (30 per wrestler)

Section 7 N/A

Section 8 Maximum Meets.

A team may not schedule nor may a wrestler participate in more than four weigh-ins per week. A team may schedule only one event involving more than four teams during the week. A two-day tournament with a weigh-in each day will count as one weigh-in.

NOTE: Make-up matches must fall within the four weigh-in regulations.

CL 1: A weigh in counts only if the wrestler appears on the mat to accept forfeit or to compete.

CL 2: A wrestler may not compete in MORE than a maximum of 30 sub-varsity and/or varsity matches during the regular season (exclusive of the NJSIAA Tournament, Team and Individual). Teams not qualifying for or being eliminated from the Team Tournament may compete consistent with Section 8 Maximum Meets and such meets during the week of the Team Tournament will not count towards the maximum thirty (30) sub-varsity and varsity matches governing a wrestler. Thirty (30) sub-varsity and varsity matches are exclusive of NJSIAA Tournaments, both Individual and Team.

CL 3: No matches, regular season meets or tournaments may be scheduled during or after the

week of the District Tournament, but a school may schedule interschool “workouts” (excluding match format-scoring, no officiating and no weigh-ins) the week of the Districts through the week of the State Finals.

CL 4: Two-day tournaments that are held on a Saturday and a Sunday will be considered as a tournament for the week of the initial day the tournament starts (in this case Saturday). A weigh-in for a two-day tournament starting on Saturday will count for the week the tournament started (in this case Saturday) and will not impact weigh-ins for the following week.

CL 5: For those events that qualify as “Elite Events,” to be determined on a yearly basis, the restrictions applicable to this Section 8 shall not apply, with the exception of the requirement that a wrestler may only participate in up to four weigh-ins per week. Participation in Elite Events shall count toward the 30-match limit set forth in CL2 above. Additionally, only one wrestler per weight class, per team shall be permitted to participate on the same day. For example, if a 285-pound wrestler on Team A wrestles at an Elite Event, Team A will not be permitted to enter another 285-pound wrestler in any other event on the same day.

CL 5 Cont.: For the 2025-2026 school year, the following Elite Events shall qualify for this rule clarification. Teams will be limited to participation in no than three Elite Events per season.

- *Beast of the East, Delaware*
- *Sam Cali Tournament, New Jersey,*
- *Powerade Tournament, Pennsylvania*
- *Escape the Rock, Pennsylvania*

Section 9 N/A

Section 10 Postponed Meets Any postponed meet may be added to the regular scheduling as noted in Section 8 Maximum Meets.

Sections 11-17 N/A

Section 18 Equipment Headgear – It is mandatory that all wrestlers wear a protective headgear at all times during practice and while participating in a match.

Sections 19-22 N/A

Section 23 Weight Certification: **See Wrestling Weight Certification Instructions.**

Boys Weight Classes: 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 144, 150, 157, 165, 175, 190, 215, 285

Section 24 Weight Classification Each Match – A wrestler’s actual weight, minimum certified weight, and weight class at which the wrestler participated must be recorded in the team’s scorebook. If there is no scorebook the official will record final score on the Wrestling weigh in sheet(s) and these form(s) will become the official document(s) of the meet.

Section 25 Skin Infection/Contagious Disease Before being permitted to wrestle, any wrestler previously judged not fit to wrestle must present, at weigh in, the original NJSIAA skin lesion form signed by-an MD,

DO, PA or APN, certifying that an exam took place pertaining to that condition within the last seven (7) days, clearing that contestant for competition.

CL: Before the dual/individual meet begins, the referee shall perform skin checks, or verify skin checks have been performed by a designated, on-site, meet appropriate health professional. NFHS Rule 3-1-4a; 3-1-5a.

Girls Wrestling

Section 1 Rules National Federation Wrestling Rules, unless modified herein, shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

CL 1: No varsity meets, regular season or tournament, may be scheduled during or after the week of the District Tournament without NJSIAA approval unless said meet had been scheduled during the last week of the regular season and postponed.

CL 2: Junior varsity and/or freshman wrestlers may not compete in matches or tournaments during the weeks of the District and Region tournaments.

CL 3: No junior varsity or freshman matches or tournaments shall be permitted after the District tournament.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the student's first transfer, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

Section 6 Scrimmages There is no maximum limit to interschool scrimmages per week. Interschool scrimmages during the regular season count toward the maximum number of matches allowed (30 per wrestler)

Section 7 N/A

Section 8 Maximum Meets A team may not schedule nor may a wrestler participate in more than four weigh-ins per week. A two-day tournament with a weigh-in each day will count as one weigh-in. A wrestler may participate in more than one event involving more than four opponents during the week.

NOTE: Make-up matches must fall within the four weigh-in regulations.

CL 1: A weigh in counts only if the wrestler appears on the mat to accept forfeit or to compete.

CL 2: A wrestler may not compete in MORE than a maximum of 30 sub-varsity and/or varsity matches during the regular season (exclusive of the NJSIAA Tournament, Team and Individual). Teams not qualifying for or being eliminated from the Team Tournament may compete consistent with Section 8 Maximum Meets and such meets during the week of the Team Tournament will not count towards the maximum thirty (30) sub-varsity and varsity matches governing a wrestler. Thirty (30) sub-varsity and varsity matches are exclusive of NJSIAA Tournaments, both Individual and Team.

CL 3: No matches, regular season meets or tournaments may be scheduled during or after the week of the District Tournament, but a school may schedule interschool “workouts” (excluding match format-scoring, no officiating and no weigh-ins) the week of the Districts through the week of the State Finals.

CL 4: Two-day tournaments that are held on a Saturday and a Sunday will be considered as a tournament for the week of the initial day the tournament starts (in this case Saturday). A weigh-in for a two-day tournament starting on Saturday will count for the week the tournament started (in this case Saturday) and will not impact weigh-ins for the following week.

Section 9 N/A

Section 10 Postponed Meets Any postponed meet may be added to the regular scheduling as noted in Section 8 Maximum Meets.

Sections 11-17 N/A

Section 18 Equipment Headgear – It is mandatory that all wrestlers wear a protective headgear at all times during practice and while participating in a match.

Sections 19-22 N/A

Section 23 Weight Certification - **See Wrestling Weight Certification Instructions.**

Girls Weight Classes: 100, 107, 114, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 165, 185, 235

Section 24 Weight Classification Each Match – A wrestler’s actual weight, minimum certified weight, and weight class at which the wrestler participated must be recorded in the team’s scorebook. If there is no scorebook the official will record final score on the Wrestling weigh in sheet(s) and these form(s) will become the official document(s) of the meet.

Section 25 Skin Infection/Contagious Disease Before being permitted to wrestle, any wrestler previously judged not fit to wrestle must present, at weigh in, the original NJSIAA skin lesion form signed by an MD, DO, PA or APN, certifying that an exam took place pertaining to that condition within the last seven (7) days, clearing that contestant for competition.

CL: Before the dual/individual meet begins, the referee shall perform skin checks, or verify skin checks have been performed by a designated, on-site, meet appropriate health professional. NFHS Rule 3-1-4a; 3-1-5a.